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THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
Ontario Library Association  
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

AT THE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY, TORONTO  
(REFERENCE LIBRARY)

EASTER MONDAY and TUESDAY,  
APRIL 9th and 10th, 1917

PRINTED BY ORDER OF  
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO



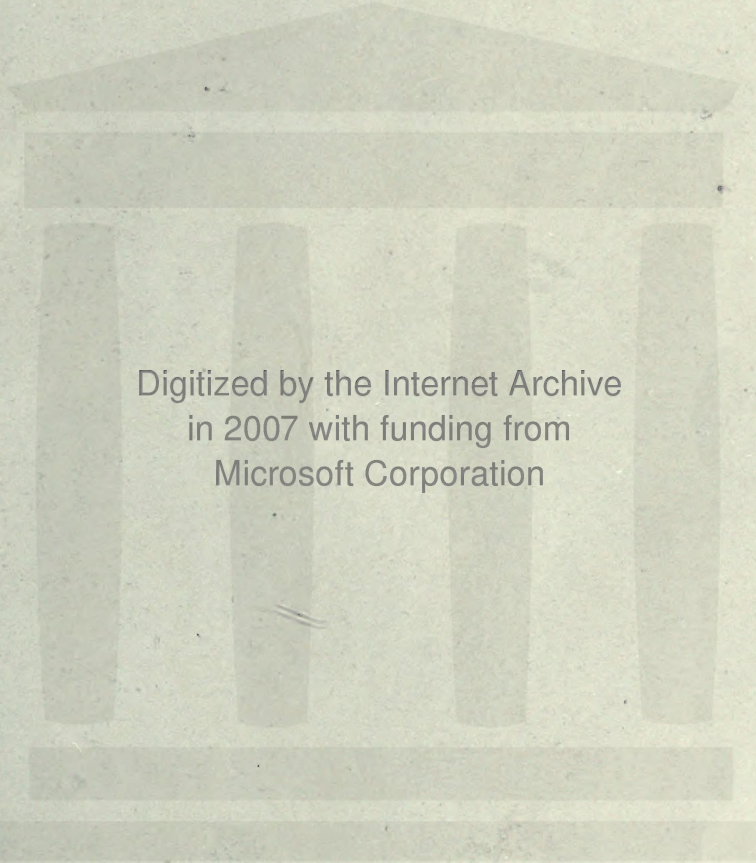
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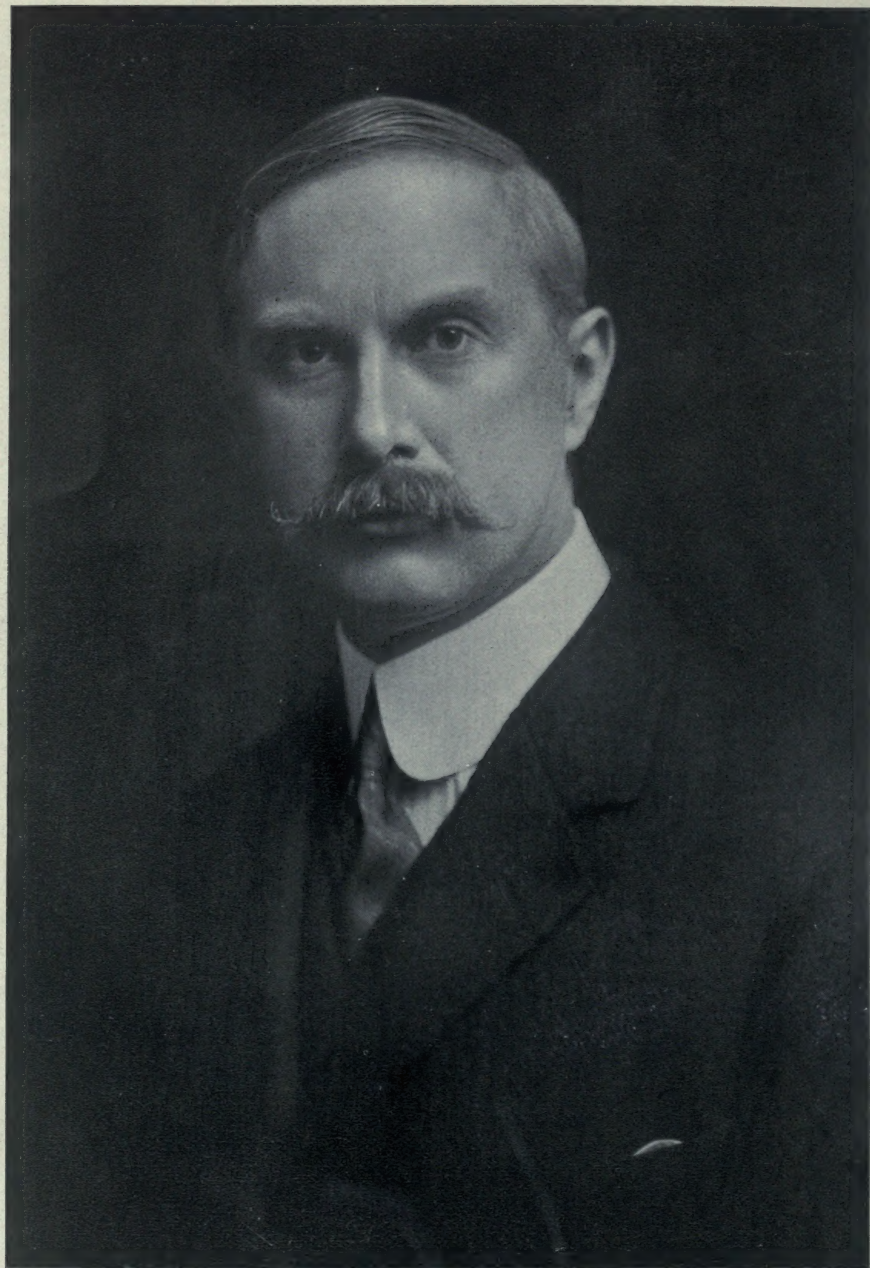






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GEO. H. LOCKE, M.A.  
President, Ontario Library Association  
1916-1917



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OF THE

## Ontario Library Association

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Printed by  
WILLIAM BRIGGS  
Corner Queen and John Streets  
TORONTO



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# Ontario Library Association

Organized in 1900

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## Officers and Standing Committees for 1917-18

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### *Officers.*

**PRESIDENT:** Miss Mary J. L. Black, The Public Library, Fort William.

**1ST VICE-PRESIDENT:** F. P. Gavin, B.A., The Public Library, Windsor.

**2ND VICE-PRESIDENT:** D. M. Grant, B.A., The Public Library, Sarnia.

**SECRETARY-TREASURER:** E. A. Hardy, B.A., D.Pæd., 81 Collier Street, Toronto.

### **COUNCILLORS:**

W. J. Sykes, B.A., The Carnegie Library, Ottawa.

W. H. Murch, The Public Library, St. Thomas.

Miss B. Mabel Dunham, B.A., The Public Library, Kitchener.

R. H. Bellamy, The Public Library, Mt. Brydges.

J. T. Lillie, B.A., The Public Library, Orillia.

Geo. H. Locke, M.A., ex-President, The Public Library, Toronto.

**Legal Committee:** Norman Gurd, B.C.L., His Honour Judge Hardy, the Hon. Mr. Justice Kelly.

**Distribution of Public Documents:** L. J. Burpee, W. J. Sykes, E. A. Hardy.

**Library Institutes:** David Williams, Norman Gurd, D. M. Grant, Miss B. Mabel Dunham, W. H. Murch, E. A. Hardy.







# Ontario Library Association

(Organized 1900)

## PROGRAMME

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, EASTER MONDAY AND TUESDAY,  
APRIL 9TH AND 10TH, 1917.

MONDAY, APRIL 9TH, 1917.

*Morning Session, 10.30 to 12.15 o'clock.*

- 10.30. Minutes.
- 10.45. Reports of Committees.
- 11.15. Appointment of Nominating Committee and of Resolutions Committee.  
The Annual Report of the Secretary and Treasurer, E. A. Hardy, Toronto.  
The Executive Committee will meet at 12.30 o'clock.

*Afternoon Session, 2.00 to 5.30 o'clock.*

- 2.00. Welcome by the Representatives of the City of Toronto and the Public Library Board.
- 2.30. "What seems to me a very important aspect of the work of Public Libraries at the present time."  
Miss Mary Black, Librarian of the Public Library, Fort William.  
Miss Mary Saxe, Librarian of the Public Library, Westmount, Que.  
Miss Mary Ahern, Editor of "Public Libraries," Chicago, Ill.
- 4.15-5.30. Instead of formal discussion of these inspirational addresses the Public Library Board and the Public Library Club invite the delegates and their friends to afternoon tea where informal conversation may be carried on—even on library topics—and where the delegates from different parts of the Province may become acquainted with the guests of the Association and with one another.  
The Committee on Nominations will meet in the Board Room of the Library at 5 p.m.

*Monday Evening.*

- 8.15. The President of the Association, Mr. George H. Locke, the Chief Librarian of the Public Library of Toronto, will speak on "The Privileges and Obligations of our Public Libraries in times of Unrest."
- 8.45. Mr. Charles H. Thurber, M.A., Ph.D., of Boston, Mass., head of the editorial department and partner in the firm of Ginn & Company, the great educational book publishers of the United States, will speak on "The Making of a Book." Dr. Thurber, as professor in Cornell, Colgate and Chicago Universities, as editor of the School Review and then responsible for the intellectual output of a great book company, will speak on a subject interesting to all who love a book, use a book or even handle a book.



After Dr. Thurber's address an informal reception will be held and an opportunity will be given to enjoy the Annual Exhibition of the Ontario Society of Artists which will be kept on the walls through the courtesy of the Society. The J. Ross Robertson Historical Collection will be open and the Reference Library in all its departments.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10TH, 1917.

*Morning Session, 9 to 12.15.*

Report of Resolutions Committee.

Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Officers.

9.30. Address by Mr. W. O. Carson, Inspector of Public Libraries.

10.00. "What I gained from my attendance at the Provincial Library Training School of 1916."

Miss Josephine McCally of the Public Library, St. Thomas.

Miss Muriel Page of the Public Library, Hamilton.

10.30. "What is the place and use of newspapers and periodicals in our public libraries in towns." Miss Dunham, B.A., Librarian, Public Library, Kitchener; Miss A. M. Harris, Librarian, Public Library, Guelph; Miss Middlemiss, of the Public Library, Brantford.

"What periodicals are suitable for Children's Departments of our Public Libraries." Miss Annie Jackson, of the Children's Department, Public Library, Toronto.

11.45. Business.

The Executive Committee will meet at 12.15.

There will be an Exhibition of Books and Supplies for Public Libraries in gallery of the Reference Library. This will be open on Tuesday afternoon also, so that after the adjournment of the Association this interesting exhibition may be seen and an afternoon profitably spent in selecting books for purchase.

The Children's Department of the Public Library of Toronto announce that if there are at least five delegates who may wish to attend a Round Table of Librarians interested in work among Boys and Girls, there will be one held at 3 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon in the Board Room of the Reference Library. Those who would like to attend may leave their names in the office of the Chief Librarian.

#### NOTES.

Bring a note book so that you can take home an interesting and practical account of what you have seen and heard. Your memory will not be good enough to recollect all that was worth while, and your Board expects to enjoy your description of this great convention.

Present your report to your Board in such a form that the editors of your local newspapers will be glad to quote from it. In other words, make "a good story" which always makes "good copy" which in turn makes "good reading."



## DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE, 1917

These showed their interest by their presence. Are you in the list?

L., Librarian; T., Trustee.

Acton .....	H. W. Arison, T.
Alton .....	Mrs. W. Dorrington, T.; Thos. R. White.
Aylmer .....	W. W. Rutherford, B.A., T.
Ayr .....	Thomas Fairgrieve, L.
Barrie .....	Mrs. S. C. Sproule, L.; R. J. Fletcher, T.
Belleville .....	A. R. Walker, L.; A. C. Wilkin, T.
Bracebridge .....	Miss Hattie Dickie.
Brantford .....	His Honour Judge A. D. Hardy, Ex-Pres., O.L.A., T.; Miss Estella Carlin, Asst. L.; Miss Essie H. Middlemiss, Juv. L.
Burk's Falls .....	Miss Jessie Wilson, L.
Burlington .....	Mrs. E. Weber, L.
Caledon .....	W. J. Atkinson, T.; E. M. Scarland, T.
Chatham .....	Miss Jeanne S. Reid, L.; Wm. E. Park, T.
Chesley .....	Mrs. H. E. Ferguson, L.
Collingwood .....	D. Williams, Ex-Pres. O.L.A., T.; J. H. Irwin, M.D., T.
Don .....	Miss L. Pearl Muirhead, T.
Dundas .....	Miss C. McSherry, L.; W. F. Moore, Ex-Pres. O.L.A., T.; Miss Sarah D. M. Fisher.
Elora .....	MacDougal Hay, B.A., T.
Forest .....	A. Williams.
Fort William .....	Miss M. J. L. Black, L.
Galt .....	Miss A. G. Millard, L.
Gananoque .....	Miss Mabel M. Carpenter, L.; R. G. Graham, T.
Georgetown .....	Frank J. Barber, T.
Grimsbby .....	Miss M. E. Forman, L.; K. M. Stephen, T.
Guelph .....	Miss Annie M. Harris, L.; W. Tytler, B.A., ex-Pres O.L.A., T.
Hamilton .....	Adam Hunter, L.; Miss Carrie Banting, Child's L.; A. L. Kavanagh, L.; Miss M. Dawson; Gladys E. Dewey; N. A. Dwyer; Belle Jarvis; Amy B. McNair; Muriel Page; J. M. Serrer; Grace Simpson; Nelly E. Ward; Caroline Wilson.
Hanover .....	Mrs. E. M. Wisler, L.
Hespeler .....	Miss Isabella Jardine.
Ingersoll .....	Miss Janet C. McKellar, L.
Kingston .....	Mrs. Amice Kennedy, L.
Kitchener .....	Miss B. Mabel Dunham, B.A., L.; Miss Alma Foreman, Child's L.
Lakefield .....	Miss Edith Griffin, L. and T.
London .....	Fred. Landon, B.A., L.
Maple .....	George P. Bosanquet, L.
Mimico .....	Miss Gertrude M. Street, L.
Mount Brydges .....	R. H. Bellamy, T.
Newmarket .....	Mrs. David Hamilton, L.
Niagara Falls .....	M. T. Butters, L.; Arthur Kinzinger, T.; W. Geo. Ward, T.; Miss Clara G. McKenzie; Miss Jessie B. Geary, L.
Niagara-on-the-Lake .....	Miss Janet Carnochan, T.
North Bay .....	D. J. McKeown, T.
Oakville .....	Mrs. M. C. Irvine, L.
Orangeville .....	D. Macpherson, L. and Sec.; E. Hackett, T.
Orillia .....	Miss B. Redpath, L.; J. T. Lillie, B.A., T.
Peterborough .....	Fred. M. De la Fosse, L.; Francis J. A. Morris.
Picton .....	Miss Eleanor Holmes, L.
Port Arthur .....	Mrs. J. S. Wink, L.
Preston .....	Miss Fenwick, L.; J. M. Scott, T.
Renfrew .....	H. W. Bryan, M.A., T.
Runnymede .....	J. S. Clouston; H. Durrant, T.; A. E. Leadbeater, S. Porter; N. Shunk, T.
St. Catharines .....	W. Briden, B.A., L.; W. J. Robertson, B.A., LL.B., ex-Pres. O.L.A., T.; Mrs. C. Cameron, Child's L.
St. Mary's .....	A. S. Box, Rev., T.; J. Geo. Miller, B.A., T.



St. Thomas .....	Dr. A. Voaden, M.A., T.; W. H. Murch, T.; Miss E. Josephine McCally, L.
Sarnia .....	Jas. J. Paterson, T.; Norman S. Gurd, ex-Pres. O.L.A. T.; D. M. Grant, B.A., T.
Scarboro .....	H. Carmichael; Albert I. Chester.
Sault Ste. Marie .....	Geo. W. Rudlin, T.
Simcoe .....	M. H. Bokenham.
Smith's Falls....	Miss Edith Sutton, L.
Solina .....	Miss Edna Reynolds.
Stouffville .....	F. C. Madill.
Stratford .....	Miss Louise Johnston, L.; J. Davis Barnett, T.
Strathcona .....	W. A. Ballance.
Streetsville .....	Miss V. L. Hollingshead, L.
Thorndale .....	W. L. Hiles, T.
Tillsonburg .....	Charles Auld, B.A., T.; Miss H. Wood.
Wallaceburg .....	E. U. Dickenson, T.
Waterloo .....	Miss E. Belle Roos, L.; Jacob G. Stroh, T.
Westmount, Que. ....	Miss Mary S. Saxe, L.
Weston .....	Joseph Nason, LL.B., T.; John J. Dalton; Miss Agnes Sosnowsky, L.
Windsor .....	Miss F. E. McCrae, L.; F. P. Gavin, B.A., T.; Andrew Braid, T.
Woodstock /.....	Miss Helen Bain, Asst. L.

## TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

George H. Locke, Chief Librarian.  
Edward S. Caswell, Secretary-Treasurer.  
Miss Olive Amsden, Cataloguing (Children).  
" Elsie D. Ashall, Riverdale.  
" Jessie C. Ashdown, College (Children).  
" Patty Aylward, Dovercourt.  
" Winifred G. Barnstead, Cataloguing.  
" Gertrude P. Bate, Earls court.  
" Mabel Baxter, Stack.  
" Irene Belcher, Yorkville.  
" Hazel Bletcher, Cataloguing.  
" Gertrude M. Boyle, Cataloguing.  
" Helen Brady, Cataloguing.  
" Annie L. Carroll, Registration.  
" Gertrude Carter, College.  
" Mabel S. Carter, Church.  
" Katie T. Collins, Cataloguing.  
" M. Colver, College (Children).  
" Frances Congdon, College.  
" Jane Corcoran, Accountant.  
" Nellie Costello, College.  
" Christina Craig, High Park.  
" Eva Davis, College.  
" Jessie H. D. Dickson, Wychwood.  
" Winifred J. Embree, College.  
" Enid Endicott, Wychwood (Children).  
" Dorothy Ferguson, Dovercourt (Children).  
" Rose Ferguson, Yorkville.  
" Marlon Field, College.  
" M. Graham, Church, Newspaper Reading Room.  
" Marjorie Grundy, Northern.  
" Eva C. Hamer, Church.  
" Zetta Harper, Reference.  
" Helen Henning, Riverdale.  
" Kate Hurndall, Cataloguing.  
" Violet M. Hyland, Reference (Reading Room).  
" Lillian M. Jackes, Deer Park.

Miss Annie M. Jackson, College (Children).  
" Marjorie Jarvis, Reference.  
" E. Faye Johnston, Cataloguing.  
" Margaret C. Kelly, Accessioning.  
" Margaret H. Kyle, Cataloguing.  
" Agnes I. Lancefield, Riverdale.  
" S. J. Lemon, Cataloguing.  
" Pansy Laing, College (Music).  
" Rita C. Lewis, Riverdale (Children).  
" Grace Lovelock, College.  
" Lunda MacBeth, Dovercourt.  
" E. W. McCallum, Western.  
" Marie L. McConnell, Accessioning.  
" M. D. MacDonald, Dovercourt.  
" McElderry, Queen and Lisgar.  
" Eloise MacFayden, College.  
" Minnie MacFayden, Reference.  
" E. Gladys McKay, College.  
" M. A. MacLachlan, Reference (Maps).  
" Alice Maddison, College.  
" Annie C. Millar, Western.  
" Katharine D. Minto, College (Children).  
" Elizabeth Moir, Reference.  
" Nora Moriarty, High Park.  
" Lillian E. Muir, Earls court.  
" Jessie M. Nelson, Beaches.  
" Queenie L. Norton, Beaches (Children).  
" H. J. Norwich, Church.  
" Teresa O'Connor, Church.  
" Patricia O'Connor, Accessioning.  
" Florence Phillips, Church.  
" M. Redmond, Eastern.  
" Edina Robertson, Earls court (Children).  
" Moto Rush, Reference.  
" Muriel M. Shapter, Queen and Lisgar (Children).  
" Agnes Simpson, Reference (Reading Room).







# ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

MONDAY, APRIL 9TH, 1917.

**THE PRESIDENT:** We will open this meeting by reading the Minutes of the last general meeting of the Association.

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes be taken as read. Carried.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

#### DOCUMENTS.

**THE SECRETARY:** I have only to say that Mr. Burpee, in the present unsettled state of affairs, has been unable to do anything in connection with Public Documents, and I simply present that as a statement of fact.

---

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LIBRARY INSTITUTES, 1916-17

The Annual Report of the Committee on Public Library Institutes for 1916 may be presented very briefly. All of the Institutes were held during the summer and fall of 1916. The attendance was very gratifying indeed, there being a total of 287 Libraries represented out of a total of 385, the highest attendance yet reached. It was necessary to restrict the Institutes to one day each. That made it possible to hold only two sessions, and these sessions were filled to the last minute. Substantially the same programme was presented at all the Institutes, with the exception of the Toronto Institute. The afternoon was given up largely to a discussion of book selection, and the evening to inspirational addresses on general library topics. The Inspector of Public Libraries, Mr. W. O. Carson, took charge of the afternoon programme and very skilfully introduced the topic and led the discussions. As a rule from two to three hours was given to this topic, which was taken up in very considerable detail. Mr. Carson was very successful in drawing out the opinions of those present, so that the majority of those in attendance took an active part in the discussion. The Toronto Institute was especially interesting in that there was recognition made of the tercentenary of Shakespeare. Professor Malcolm S. Wallace gave a most interesting address on Shakespeare, and the meeting was held in one of the new Branch Libraries built after the Collegiate Grammar School type of architecture of Shakespeare's time. There can be no question that these Institutes of 1916 were among the most successful in both attendance and interest of any that have yet been held.

Owing to strict economy now being practised, it was impossible for the Institutes Committee to hold a meeting during the year, and it is quite probable that for some time it will be difficult to provide for such meetings. One problem that has not yet been solved in connection with the Institutes is that of utilizing the services of the local Executives to anything like their full capacity. It seems to your Committee that these might be more utilized in two ways, (a) in the preparation of the programme, and in publicity, and, (b) in the local preparations for hold-

ing the Institutes. As to the first, it may be said that in some of the Institutes where the local secretaries and representatives have taken their office seriously, very much has been done, but in all the Institutes more might be done if the local Executive could be got together some time during the year, to discuss library work throughout the Institute. In regard to the second matter, it has been the experience of your Committee that a great deal has been neglected during all the history of the Institutes in the matter of local preparations for making the Institute a success. Perhaps that was due, in some measure, to holding the meeting in the summer time, but usually it seemed that there was not nearly enough care and thought put into this matter. These Institutes ought to be an inspirational feature in the life of the local Library, and if a change of date will help local Boards in bringing their preparations up to standard that might be very well taken into account.

The statements as to (a) Libraries present and absent in each Institute; (b) Officers and Executive Committees.

#### ATTENDANCE OF THE LIBRARY INSTITUTES FOR 1916

Institute	Present	Absent	Total
1. Brantford .....	22	9	31
2. Chatham .....	27	3	30
3. Western .....	6	1	7
4. Northern .....	11	9	20
5. Georgian .....	15	2	17
6. Lindsay .....	29	10	39
7. Belleville .....	16	8	24
8. Niagara .....	16	7	23
9. York .....	13	4	17
10. Guelph .....	22	11	33
11. London .....	21	5	26
12. Stratford .....	39	10	49
13. Eastern .....	28	15	43
14. Orangeville .....	21	4	25
15. Toronto .....	1	.....	1
1915 .....	287	98	385
1914 .....	251	118	369*
1913 .....	275	124	399
1912 .....	277	105	382
1911 .....	250	168	418

\* (Northern 20 libraries, no meeting.)

#### OFFICERS FOR 1917.

##### *Brantford—*

President, Mr. Lawton, Paris; Vice-President, Mr. F. Moore, Dundas; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss C. Wilson, Hamilton; Mr. Quinlan, Brantford.

##### *Chatham—*

President, Geo. Riseborough, Blenheim; Vice-President, J. E. Russ, Harrow; Secretary, Miss J. S. Reid, Chatham; Executive Committee, Officers and Chairman of Essex Public Library Board.

##### *Western—*

President, Mrs. J. Wink; Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. J. Harris.



*Northern—*

President, Charles A. Byam; Vice-President, D. J. McKeown; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. E. M. Gold.

*Georgian—*

President, D. Williams, Collingwood; Vice-President, F. W. Churchill, Collingwood; Secretary, Dr. J. B. McClinton, Elmvale; Executive Committee.

*Lindsay—*

President, McLean, Port Perry; Vice-President, Deering, Huntsville; Secretary, Miss E. G. Flavelle, B.A., Lindsay.

*Belleville—*

President, Mrs. H. V. Malone, Frankford; Vice-President, Miss Ora Haig, Campbellford; Secretary-Treasurer, A. R. Walker, Belleville; Executive Committee,

*Niagara—*

President, W. H. Arison, Niagara Falls; Vice-President, Wm. Machell, Jarvis; Secretary-Treasurer, W. E. Wicker, Nanticoke; Councillor, Wm. Briden, B.A., St. Catharines.

*York—*

President, Miss Duncan, Don; Vice-President, Mr. Weighill, Unionville; Secretary, H. Durrant, Runnymede; Executive Committee, Miss Streight, Mimico.

*Guelph—*

President, A. E. Watson, Ayr; Vice-President, Miss Doris Graef, Clifford; Secretary, Miss B. Mabel Dunham, B.A., Kitchener; Executive Committee, Officers and Chairman of Guelph Public Library Board.

*London—*

President, R. H. Bellamy, Mount Brydges; Vice-President, Mrs. A. Haight, Aylmer; Secretary, Fred Landon, London; Executive Committee, Officers and Mrs. White, Glanworth.

*Stratford—*

President, J. Davis Barnett, Stratford; 1st Vice-President, H. E. Huston, Exeter; 2nd Vice-President, John Clancy, Cargill; Secretary, Miss Louise Johnston, Stratford; Executive Committee.

*Eastern—*

President, Rev. A. Govan, Williamstown; Vice-President, Mrs. A. Beatty, Pembroke; Secretary, Miss A. Holzman, Ottawa; Executive Committee, Mr. R. H. Lindsay, Brockville; Miss E. J. McRostie, Carleton Place; Rev. Father Macdonnell, Lancaster; Mrs. H. Nicoll, Perth.

*Orangeville—*

President, Mrs. E. M. Wisler, Hanover; 1st Vice-President, W. J. Atkinson, Caledon; 2nd Vice-President, Mr. Rutledge; Secretary-Treasurer, D. McPherson, Orangeville; Executive Committee.

*Toronto—*

President, Miss M. Charlton, Academy of Music; Vice-President, D. R. Keys, M.A., the Canadian Institute; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Eva Davis, Public Library; Executive Committee, Chas. G. Fraser, Public Schools; Prof. R. E. L. Kittredge, Trinity University; H. W. Brown, B. A., Oakwood Collegiate Institute; Miss Hester Young, B.A., University of Toronto; Dr. George H. Locke, Public Library; Dr. E. A. Hardy, Toronto Sunday School Association.

## CONCLUSION.

The Committee would gratefully accord its appreciation of the Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister for their continued interest in the development of the Institutes, and the very active and valuable services rendered by the Inspector of Public Libraries, especially in the afternoon conferences.

*Chairman:*

E. A. HARDY, *Secretary.*

W. H. MURCH.

D. M. GRANT.

B. MABEL DUNHAM.

NORMAN S. GURD.

MR. WILLIAMS: There is one matter I should like to refer to in connection with the local arrangements; in some cases these have fallen down completely, and it seems to the committee that if the local secretary or representative of the Library Institute would take a little more interest in preparation there would be a good deal of work done. I know in our District the Chairman and the other members of the Committee take quite an interest in the Library Institute, and on one occasion we had Mr. Locke and Mr. Carson present, and the result was that we had our room well filled.

The resolution was seconded and carried unanimously.

---

#### REPORT OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE.

MR. GURD: Mr. President, the Legal Committee have no report to make, as nothing has been submitted to them for consideration. That is practically the whole report.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me announce the following as the Nominating Committee and the Resolutions Committee:

#### COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

David Williams, Collingwood; William Briden, St. Catharines; W. H. Murch, St. Thomas; Miss Eva Davis, Toronto; Miss M. T. Butters, Niagara Falls.

#### COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

E. S. Caswell, Toronto; Adam Hunter, Hamilton; Andrew Braid, Windsor.

THE PRESIDENT: We shall now have the Secretary's annual report.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

##### FOR THE YEAR 1916.

It is again a privilege to present the annual report of the Secretary, my seventeenth annual report.

Outside of the war interest, the year has been one of quiet and steady progress along usual lines so far as the Association is concerned, although marked with some special features in library activity in general.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee has been able to hold only one meeting, namely, that of Tuesday, April 25th. The regular semi-annual meeting was cancelled by reason of economy. The following business is reported.

First, the standing committees were appointed as follows:

Library Institutes—David Williams, Chairman; Norman S. Gurd, Miss B. Mabel Dunham, W. H. Murch, D. M. Grant, E. A. Hardy.

Legal Committee—Norman S. Gurd, Judge Hardy, His Honour Mr. Justice Kelly.

Selected List of Books—W. J. Sykes, George H. Locke, E. A. Hardy.

Distribution of Public Documents—L. J. Burpee, W. J. Sykes, E. A. Hardy.

The remaining business was almost altogether routine, the one topic of general interest being the suggestion that some steps should be taken to call the attention of the Minister of Education to the value of library instruction in Normal Schools.

It was also agreed to have a meeting of the Legal Committee, at the expense of the Association, if it is found advisable to hold such a meeting.

## OTHER COMMITTEES.

No other meetings of committees have been held during the year.

## RESOLUTIONS.

The resolutions passed at the last annual meeting have been dealt with as follows:

(1) Distribution of circular letter to Institutes, setting forth aims and objects of the Association. Instead of this action, the statement of aims and conditions of membership was prepared, and, through the kindness of the Inspector of Public Libraries, was printed in the February number of the Ontario Library Review. This will reach a larger number than we could otherwise have done.

(2) (a) Library Institutes to be in large libraries in each district—this has been kept in mind in arrangements for 1917.

(b) Rearrangement of districts. This will be a matter of discussion at the next meeting of Library Institutes Committee.

(5) Action in aiding Canadian Free Library for the Blind, and—

(11) Question of changing the first session of our annual meeting from Monday morning to Monday at 1 o'clock and extending the session to Tuesday afternoon. As to these two resolutions, owing to the fact that we have not been able to have a semi-annual executive meeting, it has been impossible to deal with them. So far as the Library for the Blind is concerned, there seems to be a very friendly disposition on the part of the Government, and considerable progress is being made in the development of this Library. A suggestion, might be made, however, that our Association issue a circular letter to the public libraries throughout the Province asking them to interest themselves in the matter of the blind, and report to the Library here the names of the blind in their district, and perhaps act as a medium of communication between the Library and the blind.

(7) *Re* publication of relief map of Europe. It has not been considered advisable to do anything about this, in consideration of the situation in the Old Country.

(9) Early publication of the Annual Report. An effort was made to issue this report earlier, but there were difficulties in the way that could not be met. It is hoped, however, that subsequent issues may be put out at an earlier date.

(10) Resolutions from Institutes.

These were to be referred to the Legal Committee, which, however, has not been able to deal with them.

### THE WORK OF THE YEAR.

**The Proceedings.** The Annual Proceedings of 1916 were still further reduced in volume, this year amounting to 76 pages. This volume of Proceedings has a pathetic as well as a valuable interest in that it contains a verbatim report of one of the last addresses of Dr. C. C. James, a valuable address of the greatest interest.

**Summer School.** The Summer School was able to resume in 1916, the session being held from September 11th to October 10th. The attendance was very satisfactory in both number and quality of students, and the work done was decidedly encouraging. By an agreement with the Toronto Public Library, the School was held at the Dovercourt Branch, and the Toronto Public Library staff was drawn upon for a good deal of assistance. Both staff and students were pleased with the amount of work done and it will be your privilege to-morrow to hear from several members of the School as to their impressions of what the School meant to them.

**Library Institutes.** All the fifteen Institutes were held, and the report of the Institutes Committee shows the success of these meetings. The presence of the Inspector was greatly appreciated, and the general participation in the discussions on the part of these present was most satisfactory. I had the privilege of being present at four of these Institutes and was very much pleased to note the keen interest on the part of those present. So far as I am aware, this phase of library work has been developed in Ontario much more thoroughly than in almost any State of the American Union; possibly New York was outstripping us, but in any case we have reason to be pleased with this development of our work.

**Selected List of Books and Ontario Library Review.** By reason of the Inspector's Department taking over the editorial work in connection with book selection, the Selected List of Books ceased to exist with Volume XV, Part I. In June the first number of the Ontario Review appeared, edited by the Inspector of Public Libraries. The Review is a combined library bulletin and selected list of books. On all sides complimentary references have been made to the success of the Review, and the Inspector of Public Libraries is to be congratulated on having produced the Review quite on a level with the best library quarterlies or bulletins on the continent.

**Public Meetings.** It has been manifestly out of the question to do anything in the matter of public meetings, other than those in connection with opening of new buildings, and this will probably be so during the progress of the war.

**The Programme.** It is a pleasure to call attention to the programme in your hand, which represents a good deal of careful planning on the part of your President. The topics and the speakers will be of great interest to you, and the various innovations in the order of procedure will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated.

### THE SECRETARY'S WORK.

The work of the Secretary for the past year has been about the same as in the preceding two or three years. The correspondence is, perhaps, somewhat lighter than it has been, although it continues throughout the year and ranges over many



topics. There has been considerable lessening of the work in connection with the Institutes, through the adoption of the uniform draft programme, and the doing away with a printed different programme for each Institute. The other routine of the office has remained about the same.

#### EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

The formal opening of the new Tavistock Public Library was held on 15th March of this year, and was a most successful event, the surrounding districts being as much interested in the new library as the people of Tavistock themselves.

Barrie had a quiet and informal opening of their fine new library building, one of the best in the Province, and I understand they are proceeding with such additions to their equipment as will make it adequate for their needs. It is interesting to note in this connection that the Barrie people are anxious to copy the Collingwood idea of the museum of historical objects in the basement of their new building. The fine museum at Peterborough Public Library might also be studied by them with profit. The mural paintings at Collingwood have also greatly impressed the Barrie people.

It has been a pleasure again to receive the annual reports of some of our libraries and to note how some others are using the newspapers to secure publicity. Is it hoping for too much to think that some day in the near future this may be general throughout the Province? Such action would greatly strengthen the hold of the library on the general public.

American Library Association Conference. The American Library Association Conference at Asbury Park last summer (June 26-July 1) was a very successful gathering, the enrolment of 1,386 being the largest in the history of the Association. Fourteen were present from Canada, of whom eight at least were members of the Ontario Library Association. The place of meeting, the papers and addresses, and the good fellowship of the members combined to produce a very delightful and inspiring convention. The Canadians present held a Dominion Day—breakfast with Miss Sheldrick as guest of honour and with great pleasure they sent a telegram to Dr. Locke congratulating him on his election to the distinguished office of Vice-President of the American Library Association. Just here may be noted that 1916 was our President's busy year. Last Easter he was elected as President of the Ontario Library Association and President of the Canadian Club of Toronto on the same day, and about two months later the American Library Association Vice-Presidency was added. Our Association is honoured in having a share in these honours.

Toronto. During the past year the outstanding event of the Toronto Public Library, to quote from the report of the Chief Librarian, was the opening of the three branch libraries, the Wychwood Branch, the High Park Branch and the Beaches Branch. These buildings are designed after the fashion of the collegiate grammar school of the seventeenth century in England and are a contribution to the tercentenary celebration of Shakespeare and his work. The John Ross Robertson collection of Canadian historical prints now numbers about 3,500, and the great catalogue accompanying these is ready. To this magnificent collection Mr. Robertson added during the year a collection of water colours depicting early bird life in this Province, painted by William Pope, an Englishman for many years resident in Western Ontario. Still another addition from the same source is the Robertson collection of Canadian maps, valuable to Canada generally and especially valuable to Toronto on account of the rare local maps.

The children's work in the Toronto libraries is steadily growing, until now there are ten children's rooms with four other centres with story hours. On the 22nd of February of this year a new children's room was opened in the West Toronto Branch, and I quote the following description from a local newspaper: "The room itself is such that anyone would be attracted by it, with its fresh white walls and low bookshelves, the long, roomy tables, and low benches of oak, and at the end of the room the huge fireplace, an exact copy of an old New England fireplace with red tiled floor, brick back and large square Colonial mantel, with ferns and brass candlesticks on top. One was told that over this fireplace will hang a beautiful steel engraving of Florence Nightingale. The high windows are hung with straight curtains of peacock blue silk and the whole room is so comfortable and artistic that many a mother was heard to remark: 'Well, my children will certainly enjoy this.'"

In connection with the same branch library there is a High School reference room, designed especially for the students of Humberstone Collegiate Institute. A fine tribute to its value appears in the current number of "The School" from the pen of one of the Collegiate staff, Miss Kate L. Stewart. Let us hope Miss Stewart's example will be greatly contagious.

One more interesting feature may be noted here, the study of the city by districts. At the meetings of the Toronto Public Library Association reports are presented from time to time of intensive surveys of local districts made by members of the staff on duty in that district. Such neighbourhood studies are invaluable in directing the policy of the library and cultivating right relations between library and community.

#### GIFTS.

Cobourg, \$400 from an unnamed donor.

Lancaster, \$500 from estate of the late Chief Justice McLennan.

Merritton, \$7,000, Carnegie Corporation.

The total grants to libraries in the United States and Canada from the Carnegie Corporation was \$1,253,888, and from other sources \$5,198,123.

#### HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

I have examined with much interest bulletins and annual reports of various local libraries, Canadian, British and American, and note several hints and suggestions therefrom. In the new Woodlawn branch of the Chicago Public Library there is a collection of 500 piano-player rolls donated by the Starr Piano Co. These are loaned like books. This looks good to me. Binghamton Public Library reports the following activities: Lecture courses, exhibitions, e.g., water colours, playground work, apples; letters and booklets to "Shut-Ins" through the medium of the clergy, lantern slide collections for loaning. Niagara Falls, Ont., began publication of a local bulletin last July. Wokington, England, publishes in its annual report the attendance of each member of the Board at the various meetings of the Board and its committees. The Library Association Record for March, 1917, points out the valuable function of the library in the proposed settlement of returned soldiers upon the land in "colonies" or grouped farms.

#### BOOK NEWS.

Two or three items of interest in connection with book selection may be noted here. The Pratt Institute annual lists of technical and industrial lists, classified



and annotated, are to be henceforth published by the H. W. Wilson Co. M. Jean A. Picard is preparing a selected list of books in English on France and French matters, covering the main features of French geography, history, life, France's part in the war, etc. The list is to be distributed at the 1917 meeting of the American Library Association in Louisville, Kentucky, June 21-27. The Canadian *Bookseller and Stationer* publishes many items of book news of value to our librarians and is devoting considerable space to library news.

#### PERSONALS.

During the year promotion has come to two members of the Association. Mr. S. B. Herbert has been made Assistant Inspector of Public Libraries, a promotion well earned by faithful service. Mr. I. M. Levan, B.A., Principal of Woodstock Collegiate Institute, has been made an Inspector of High Schools. Mr. Levan was for many years a member of the Woodstock Public Library Board and is an earnest friend of library work. Our congratulations to these two gentlemen. We have had the great sorrow during the year to lose one of our most zealous and interested members through the death of Dr. Charteris. For many years Dr. Charteris was an active member of the Chatham Public Library Board. He rarely, if ever, missed a meeting of the Board and took a deep, intelligent and sympathetic interest in all phases of the work of the library. He was a regular attendant at our annual meetings and was President of the Association in 1912, and a most welcome member. We shall greatly miss him, for he was highly esteemed for his strong helpful personality, his constant interest and his earnest labours for library advancement. The Association was represented at the funeral by Mr. Murch, and expressions of sympathy were sent to Mrs. Charteris and the family. The whole library world suffered a great loss last summer in the death of Miss Mary W. Plummer, President of the American Library Association. Many tributes have been paid to the work of this gifted woman and she deserved them all. We add our word of appreciation, for Miss Plummer was one of the vital forces in American librarianship in her ability, her knowledge, her labours, and above all, in her beautiful spirit. Her life was a real contribution to the world in which she lived.

#### APPRECIATION.

It is a pleasure to again place on record my appreciation of the deep interest of the Minister of Education, the Deputy Minister, the Inspector and his staff, and the Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Library, and his staff, in all matters relating to library progress in our Province. My visit to the United States last summer enabled me to realize, as I have never done before, how great a debt the Ontario Library Association and all library workers owe to the Department of Education of the Province for their continued and growing interest in library work, and for the administrative system in Canada which enables a Minister of the Crown to supervise personally in the Legislature the appropriations for every phase of his department.

#### LIBRARY EXTENSION.

One of the subjects of long-continued interest on the part of this Association is that of library extension. In his presidential address for 1911 Mr. A. W. Cameron referred to this at some length, dealing especially with the County library system. The Secretary's report for 1914 also dealt with the matter, and Mr.

Denholm in 1915, in his last address before this Association, spoke very strongly on the matter. A reference to the statistics as furnished in the reports of the Inspector, shows that in 1895 there were reported 356 public libraries in Ontario; in 1905, 488; and in 1915, 409. To explain the rise and fall of these figures would be a long story, but the outstanding fact is that in 20 years we seem to have made comparatively little progress in overtaking the library needs of the Province. The following statement will make this clear in some detail:

1916	Number in Ontario	With Libraries	Without Libraries	Population without Libraries
Cities .....	22	22	.....	.....
Towns.....	134	99	35	64,274
Villages .....	146	108	38	26,642
Townships.....	527	158	274	354,152
	829	387	347	445,068

It should be noted, in this connection, that we have in the Province a good many different kinds of libraries. For example, 400 public libraries, 150 high school libraries, and 150 continuation school libraries; 5,000 public school libraries; some thousands of Sunday-school libraries; several hundred travelling libraries, in addition to local law libraries, medical libraries and some larger private libraries. Now, what can be done to really overtake the problem of meeting the library needs of every man, woman and child in Ontario? It would seem that a very careful study should be made of this whole question, by those who are specially qualified to undertake this duty, and I venture to suggest that a Commission should be appointed by the Government to take up this measure. Such a commission might consist of a member of the Legislature specially in touch with rural conditions; a warden of one of our counties where county institutions have been highly developed; a public school inspector; a representative from the Ontario Sunday-school Association, particularly in touch with rural conditions; a representative of the Ontario Library Association similarly qualified, and the Inspector of Public Libraries. Such a commission should be duly financed by the Legislature and should be authorized and instructed to make a careful survey of the library needs of the Province, of the libraries of various kinds now in existence and of the methods, administrative and financial, which would be required to place the Province of Ontario in the front rank in an adequate treatment of this great matter.

Since writing this section *re* library extension and training I have examined the reports of The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for 1914, 1915, and 1916, and especially Prof. Adams' "Report on Library Provision and Policy," prepared for the Carnegie trustees in 1915 (sent me through the kindness of the Secretary, Mr. A. L. Hetherington, M.A.). I have been greatly interested in both his findings as to actual conditions in the United Kingdom and his recommendations. These may be summarized as follows:



## 1. Public libraries supported by Municipal taxation, established 1840-1909:

	<i>England.</i>	<i>Scotland.</i>	<i>Wales.</i>	<i>Ireland.</i>	
	366	73	57	26	
of which	246	57	46	20	were established in:
last twenty years.					

## 2. Distribution of libraries:

Cities of 50,000 and over.	All but 3 have libraries.
" " 30,000 and over.	203 out of 222.
" " 20,000-30,000.	66 out of 87.
" " 10,000-20,000.	128 out of 276.
" " 5,000-10,000.	98 out of 316.

Generally "libraries are chiefly in larger town and city areas, while the smaller towns and country districts remain to a great extent unprovided for." "It is estimated that 79 per cent. of the urban population have access to public library facilities, and less than 2.5 per cent. of the rural population."

## 3. Expenditures: Out of an estimated total income of £700,000 the following is estimated as expenditures:

For books and binding .....	£123,399
For periodicals .....	40,988
For salaries .....	253,549

In other ways the expenditure on books, etc., and on salaries is far too small.

## 4. Prof. Adams' recommendations (taking as a basis that the rural problem must be solved, no matter how difficult).

(1) A gradual but certain extension of a national rural library scheme of county rate-supported libraries.

(2) This rural library system should be closely linked up with the educational institutions in the villages and country districts.

(3) The rural library system should be a public state system supported by rates, and, like the educational system, universal, radiating from one or more centres in each county, utilizing the village and country schools as branch libraries.

(4) Library training should be provided in training schools preferably associated with universities, and probably located in London.

(5) A national library advisory committee should be created by the co-operation of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, the State Departments of Education and Agriculture and the local Government Councils. There should be also created similar advisory committees for each Kingdom.

Time will permit me to state only this, that the trustees have been acting on Prof. Adams' suggestions, and the 3rd Annual Report gives most suggestive accounts of the rural library schemes for the North of Scotland, Dorset, Staffordshire, Westmoreland, Worksop, Yorkshire, and several centres in Ireland.

## LIBRARY TRAINING.

It is very interesting, in looking over the Proceedings of the Ontario Library Association, to find how persistently the Association has had library training in mind from the outset. In 1901 at the first annual meeting, library training was a

part of the projected outline programme made before the Association. In 1902 a paper was read by the Secretary on the "Training of Librarians in this Province," advocating a Government outline reading course, certificates in connection therewith, and Government recognition. In 1903 Mr. W. J. Brown read a paper on "First Steps in Library Training." In 1904 Mr. W. J. Robertson read a paper on "Should the Education Department issue a Librarian's Certificate," in which he took a decidedly affirmative view. Rising out of the discussion on his paper, the following action was taken. "Resolved that the librarians of public libraries who were receiving not less than 75 per cent. of the maximum Government grant shall hold junior leaving English standing or its equivalent and in addition be required to pass a professional examination in library work under the control of the Education Department. This regulation not to apply to present librarians." "That a committee be appointed to wait on the Minister of Education to present the views of this Association relative to the matter in question." In 1906 Mr. Robertson, in his presidential address, again noted the importance of library training. In 1907 a resolution was passed re-stating the opinion of the Association that at the earliest possible date some definite qualifications should be recognized for librarians. In 1908 the Secretary's report suggested a course for librarians with examinations and Government certificates. In 1909 a deputation waited on the Government, and one of its recommendations was "that qualifications of librarians be recognized as a basis of additional grants." In 1910 His Honour Judge Hardy took for the topic of his presidential address "Library Training and Some Other Matters." In 1911 one section of the Secretary's report gave a list of the American library schools, and presented a suggestive outline of a brief summer school course.

Meanwhile, the Department of Education was moving in this matter, as a perusal of their reports of the Inspectors will show. In 1908 there is a recommendation by Inspector Leavitt for the establishment of a summer school for the training of librarians. In 1909 Inspector Nurse quotes with approval the recommendation of his predecessor, and himself makes the same recommendation. In 1910 Inspector Nurse again makes recommendation for a summer school. In 1911 the first school was opened, followed in 1912, 1913 and 1914, all the sessions being successful in number of students and quality of work. In 1915 the school was omitted, for financial reasons, and in 1916 the fifth session was held, to the success of which reference has already been made in this report.

So much for the past and present, but what for the future? No student of library matters but must realize that this is the very heart of the library question. The trained librarian is as essential to the success of the library movement as the trained teacher is in the school, and the trained doctor and minister for the physical and spiritual health of the community. I venture, therefore, to make the following suggestions:

(1st) An extension of the present summer school, to provide for more adequate training for those offering from larger libraries. Perhaps this can hardly be considered a suggestion, inasmuch as plans are, I believe, already in preparation for the working out of this matter.

(2nd) Reading courses. After the style of the extra mural courses in our universities, it would seem quite practicable that the Department of Education should provide carefully worked out reading courses covering the library field requiring several years study. These could be provided with suitable bibliographies, and would, no doubt, be well received by librarians, both those who have already had some library training and those who have not had that privilege. Suitable ex-



aminations and certificates could be provided, after the fashion of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, or after the fashion of the extra mural examinations of our universities.

(3rd) Recognition of these courses. These courses could be recognized by the Department, first, by suitable certificates of standing, and secondly, by using these certificates as a basis for an extra grant to the library. They would be of further service in their recognition by Boards as substitutes for the local examinations of candidates by the Boards in our larger cities, and also as units of credit in determining seniority and increases in salary. Further, the Department might give certain official inspection to these certificated librarians and give additional rank, somewhat after the manner of the high school inspectors' work in connection with permanent specialists' certificates in this Province.

(4th) Extension of Institutes. There will remain a large number of very small libraries whose librarians can hardly be reached by any of the above methods. We are doing something for these now through our Institutes. Would it be possible to do a good deal more by some such plan as the following? Supposing that in three of our Institutes in the year the meeting of the Institute was extended to cover a week, and that would mean in other words a little local library school be brought to the librarians of these small libraries, at Government expense. In four or five years every library in the Province would have had in this way something of a simple elementary library training.

This matter of library training is very much in evidence throughout the whole library field on this continent. At the Mid-Winter Meeting of the American Library Association Council the following action was taken: "That the President appoint a special committee of five to take up the question of standardization of libraries and librarians, certification of librarians, etc., this committee to report to the whole Association. Following this action the New York Library Club gave up its March meeting wholly to the discussion of this resolution of the American Library Association Council. In the April number of *Public Libraries*, on page 176, appears a list of references prepared for a round-table on the subject held by the First District of the California Library Association in February last. In that list there are fourteen references to training, examination and certification of librarians from library journals and bulletins, mostly in 1916, though a few go as far back as 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1909. It is evident, therefore, that this is recognized as one of the greatest library questions, and we certainly should do everything in our power to bring about a satisfactory method to deal with it.

### THE MISSION OF THE LIBRARY.

Has the library a special place in this time of strife and revolution? Is it, as men say of various institutions these days, an expensive luxury? Or does it fulfil a real and needed mission? The answer involves a clear conception of what is going on in this world-war. Back of the clash of arms, the shedding of blood, the breaking of hearts and homes lies the real cause, the shock of ideas. To-day the freedom of thought and speech and life which the Englishman for fifteen hundred years has been fighting for, overturning monarchies, sweeping aside nobilities, demolishing traditions to establish it, and the religion which Christ gave the world two thousand years ago, are fronting in gigantic struggle the oppression of autocracy, oligarchy and bureaucracy, linked together with a practical materialism and a superman philosophy of sheer, domineering force. We are putting our blood and our money into the struggle without stint, into this world-war of ideas against ideas.

As our men sail away across the seas, we bend to our task at home and strive and pray that our part may also be manfully done. And what may we in the library do? Our great task is to recognize the library as not only a storehouse of ideas, but a high-power distributing agency as well. Ideas that are foolish, wrong or wicked must be replaced by ideas that are correct, noble and inspiring. Cheap sneers at public men or at nations, shallow optimism or blue pessimism about the end of the war or the settlement after the war, ignorance of the great issues at the heart of the war, these must be swept away by the library in its beneficent mission. Knowledge, more knowledge and still more knowledge must be sent out. For the remainder of the war duties and for the great tasks after the war, we need all our strength, and all our wisdom. The librarian must rank alongside the preacher, the teacher, the journalist, the legislator, as among the vitally necessary forces to nerve the nation to its highest achievements for King and Country and God. It is a noble and great task that rests upon the library and one that must be met.

#### IN THE READING-ROOM AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BY NANCY BYRD TURNER.

"Silence". they post upon the lintel here,  
 Yet surely speech is rife. Loud in the hush,  
 Who listens marks a pentecostal rush  
 Of fervent tongues lost to the common ear.  
 To-day, to-morrow, yesterday have word:  
 Love in an ancient tale of chivalry;  
 Clamor of coast to coast; far prophecy;  
 Din of old bugles; trumpets newly stirred;  
 A bell rung slow at sea on a strange ship;  
 Winds on an aching desert, hot and spare;  
 Cheers for a breathless runner near his goal;  
 And at each shoulder, finger mute to lip,  
 A sentinel angel, each man unaware,  
 In a tumultuous silence with his soul.

—From *The Century*, Dec., 1916.

THE PRESIDENT: I will ask Mr. Hardy to give the Treasurer's report.

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## REPORT OF THE TREASURER, 1916-17

*Receipts.*

Balance on hand .....	\$247 87
Fees .....	250 00
Legislative grant .....	400 00
Bank interest .....	4 34
	<hr/>
	\$902 21

*Expenditures.*

Annual Meeting .....	\$120 50
Secretary's Honorarium .....	250 00
Clerical help .....	40 00
Postage .....	39 50
Stationery .....	29 75
Typewriter .....	50 00
President's expenses .....	20 00
Miscellaneous .....	28 45
	<hr/>
	\$578 20
Balance .....	324 01
	<hr/>
	\$902 21

MR. HARDY: I move that this be received and sent on to the auditors. Carried.

MISS BLACK: Mr. President, the Secretary's very valuable report contained some very interesting resolutions. I move that this report be handed on to the care of the Resolutions Committee for examination and allow them to bring in any suggestion they think desirable.

MR. MOORE: Mr. President, reference was made in the report to the death of Dr. Charteris and the valuable service he rendered to this Association. I would like a resolution to be drafted and incorporated in our Minutes, outside of the Secretary's report which is voluminous, making special reference to the loss the Association has sustained by the death of Dr. Charteris.

THE PRESIDENT: That will be marked for the Resolutions Committee.

MR. CASWELL: Mr. President, I think the Secretary deserves the thanks and the appreciation of the Association for the work he has put into the report. He has gathered into it much information in connection with Library work.

THE PRESIDENT: It has been moved and seconded that the report of the Secretary be passed on to the Resolutions Committee for their consideration, and especially those points which have been raised in the discussion. The Resolutions Committee will then report to us and we will take it up in business session. The report is extremely valuable to us. A lot of things pass my notice in the work of the year which are brought to my attention again when Mr. Hardy speaks about it. The Quarterly Bulletin is also bringing to light a number of things which are going on in smaller places and which would be passed over otherwise.

All of you are interested in books for girls. You will find a list of such books on the table outside this room, and you are perfectly welcome to a copy. If there is some book on that list of which you know nothing, or some book with regard to which you would know more, it is quite easy to drop a note to Miss Smith, the head of the Children's Library, and she will answer any questions in regard to that. If you cannot remember the name of Miss Smith, which is an uncommon one (laughter) write to me. We are always glad to hear from some one asking questions. There are ten Children's libraries. To-morrow we are going to hold a round-table at the Wychwood Branch, providing there are at least five people who

are interested in joining the round-table. They are going to be here at half past two to-morrow afternoon, and you can be taken to the Wychwood Branch, and they will dispose of you afterwards wherever you would like to be disposed of.

Just as you entered the Library here you might have seen a number of posters. Those posters have all to do with Library work, and it is an interesting fact that those are all done by our own Librarians. We have a dramatic club, and now we are developing an art club. On a screen this side of the posters you will find an illustration from the Children's Library of how their circulation has increased. The figures there may be of interest to you when you go back home in order to convert some member of the Board who needs conversion or some people in the town who need conversion. Let me say that it is interesting to hold a meeting of the Library Association at this point in the year. This is the high point of the year. This is the peak. The end of March is the high point of reading in the year. The chart I have referred to shows the rise and fall in the circulation in each branch, and the people watch it very carefully to see how it goes up and how it comes down, and when an increase comes and when there is a decrease, and they wonder why, and you have to consider if there is some reason for it. But you find the peak is always at the end of March. The increase in reading among boys and girls in the City of Toronto during March of this year was 10,000 more than in March of 1916. That is an illustration of the progress that is being made among boys and girls.

MR. ADAM HUNTER: I want to move that the Ontario Library Association Meeting next year be held in Hamilton. The Board of Trade telephoned me Saturday night to ask if I would use my influence in trying to get the members of the Ontario Library Association to come to Hamilton next year, so that the people might be induced to take a greater interest in the Library. They thought it would be a good idea if the meeting was held in Hamilton next year.

MR. CASWELL: I will second that motion.

THE PRESIDENT: As President of the Library Association I may say that the proposal is a radical departure from the accepted way of doing things. It cannot be settled at once in meeting. I want to put it in the same place as we put all the other departures which are mentioned in connection with the Secretary's address; namely, before the Resolutions Committee. They can discuss it and submit a resolution with regard to the matter. We shall then have a chance to discuss it, and in the meantime we shall have had an opportunity of thinking about it during the meeting.

MR. CASWELL: Mr. President, I think it would be an advantage to let the idea sink into the minds of the delegates. Why not bring it up at the closing session?

THE PRESIDENT: If it is referred to the Resolutions Committee, it is bound to come back again.

MR. GURD: I move that the matter be referred to the Resolutions Committee to report at the Tuesday business meeting.

MR. WILLIAMS: This is a radical move. I think it would be better if this meeting decide to hear the views of the different members. The idea of encouraging or increasing the interest in Library work in Hamilton is a worthy motive, but I think the matter should be left in such a way that the Executive can deal with the matter during the year. If ladies and gentlemen will give expression to their views, the Executive will have some idea to go on, and I move that this proposal be sent to the Executive Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: As an amendment to the amendment.



THE PRESIDENT: The main motion is that the Ontario Library Association be invited to Hamilton next year. The amendment is that this matter be referred to the Resolutions Committee for report to-morrow. The amendment to the amendment is that this matter be referred to the Executive Committee. Is there any discussion?

MR. MURCH: Would the Executive Committee have absolute power?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GURD: Does the Toronto Library Board welcome us here every year?

THE PRESIDENT: It looks like it.

On being put to the vote, the matter was referred to the Resolutions Committee.

MR. MOORE: I have a resolution to send on to the Resolutions Committee. It is this: That the Inspector of Libraries be requested to change the classification of books so that historical novels, or scientific novels, or of voyage and travel, be not classed as fiction. It looks bad in our reports to see that a great percentage of the books read is fiction; but really the books I have enumerated are not fiction.

The motion was seconded, and was ordered to be sent to the Resolutions Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: That concludes the morning's business.

#### MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

THE PRESIDENT: This morning we had a formal business meeting of the Ontario Library Association in preparation for the opening of the real session in the afternoon. On this occasion we have the pleasure of having with us a representative of the Board of Control, and also a representative of our Public Library Board. I refer to Controller Shaw, who has been identified with education since before I can remember, and Mr. Lee who has been identified with the Public Library for the same length of time. I have great pleasure in introducing Controller Shaw to this assembly of librarians. Possibly it is the first time he has faced an assembly of librarians, and I hope he will appreciate that this is one part of the educational work with which he used to be identified and took a great deal of interest in.

CONTROLLER SHAW: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: It certainly affords me a great deal of personal pleasure to meet you this afternoon, and to represent in a feeble way our Mayor and Civic Administration. The Mayor should have been here, and it was only a short time ago I learned that another important meeting prevented him from coming, so he commissioned me to come and say that he, as well as the City of Toronto in general, extends to you a cordial welcome, and we are glad to have you here. The Mayor also stated to me by telephone that he wants me to say that he recognizes this convention as something out of the ordinary, and to express to you his view-point along that line, and to say for him that because of that he regrets all the more that he cannot be here to extend his personal greetings. The Civic Administration welcomes within the confines of the City many representative bodies, but I feel I am voicing the sentiments of our administration and of our citizens generally when I bespeak the appreciation, from a public standpoint, of the excellent work along educational lines that is being conducted and performed throughout this Province by those engaged in library work.

Personally, I take a great interest in the operations of Public Libraries. I look upon them as a vital force for the betterment of the public in general, tending through their activities to elevate the mentality of our people, to give them practical

information, and to make of them better citizens. So I acknowledge that you are engaged in a splendid work, along splendid lines of educational work. How to extend your work I suppose will be fully discussed and developed during your meetings. But it occurred to me in coming up on the street car that one thing you might consider is how to increase the number of your readers and interest more people in the work of the libraries. Another thing that occurs to me is that an effort should be put forth to divert a large percentage of your readers from being mere readers of fiction work to readers of more important and elevating work; historical, scientific and other phases which have for their objective a more practical educational benefit. Those are not new suggestions, I know, but they are two things which suggest themselves to my mind upon which you might bend your energies. I am not here to discuss the ways and means of increasing the work. I think I may say in passing that the Civic Administration recognizes the value of your work, because in sitting last week, I think that the item allocated to the Public Library Board was the only item that was not challenged with a disposition to cut it down. (Applause.) There was no suggestion about making a reduction. That just conveys an idea of how we appreciate the work you have carried on in connection with the Library. It is my duty to say to you again that you are very welcome to our City, and I say this in the hope that the privileges you will enjoy during your short sojourn here, you are very welcome to. I hope you will appreciate them to this extent: that you will make up your mind to come back again next year. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: I have now much pleasure in introducing Mr. Lee, one of our members upon the Board of the Public Library, and who has seen it grow from small things to its present state.

MR. LEE: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: I am sure it affords me a great deal of pleasure to be with you at your meeting this afternoon. I see around me many of the old faces that were here last year and I see a great many new ones, indicating to me that a great deal more interest is being taken in the affairs of your Association. On behalf of the Library Board, and in the absence of our Chairman, who is unavoidably absent on account of illness, it affords me a great deal of pleasure to welcome you to our City. I was very glad indeed that Controller Shaw was speaking at your meeting. It made me smile to think that Toronto had been so generous this year as not even to question our estimates. I remember on a previous occasion, some fifteen or seventeen years ago, when I was Chairman of the Library Board, that very question came up, and I had to fight the City a lawsuit to determine that they were not entitled to touch our estimates. When visiting the American Library Association in company with your good librarian, Dr. Locke, two years ago, I was surprised at the wonderful interest that was taken in library work on the other side of the line. It struck me when I came away from California that we were about ten years behind in library work compared to what they were on the other side. We have with us this afternoon Miss Ahern, and you will be pleased to listen to her address, because everybody whoever travelled with her or has listened to her on educational topics from a public library standpoint is always delighted with what she has to say. It is unnecessary for me to say that it affords the Library Board at all times and under all circumstances the greatest pleasure to give to the Ontario Library Association the best measure of support that we are able, because we feel that when we are doing it for the Ontario Library Association we are doing it for our own local Library Association. I thank you for asking me to speak to you on behalf of the Board, and I assure you that the welcome on behalf of the Board is from the heart of the Board, and I repeat that at all times and under all



circumstances you will be welcomed to this City of Toronto by our Board. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT said that they had with them this afternoon three Marys: Miss Mary Black, Miss Mary Saxe and Miss Mary Ahern. They would remember that Mary chose the better part. He had to fill the role of Martha. He would now ask Miss Black, the Librarian of the Public Library, Fort William, to address them.

## WHAT SEEMS TO ME AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE WORK OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES AT THE PRESENT TIME.

BY MISS MARY J. L. BLACK, FORT WILLIAM, ONT.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

It is only fair to myself to explain that I am in no way responsible for being on the platform to-day. I tried to get Mr. Locke to make other arrangements, but he said he could not because (though, of course, he did not exactly say this, but I know it was his reason)—because I happened to possess the same Christian name as that of the two ladies appearing on the programme with me, and my presence was necessary in order to give Mr. Locke an opportunity of working off a little joke at the expense of the “three Maries.” In reality, to a Scotchwoman, like myself, it is rather absurd to associate such names as “Ahearn” and “Saxe”—though far be it from me to throw the fact up at the owners; they cannot help it—with Mary Beaton, Mary Seaton, Mary Carmichael and me. To the untrained Saxon ear the combination may sound correct, but it really is not. On the other hand had Mr. Locke chosen some such metaphor as that of the “three fates” it would have been most appropriate at the present moment, and that of the “three furies” might have been sufficiently accurate to have served the purpose, even though not strictly complimentary; while had he chosen to substitute some one else for me, he might have referred most feelingly to the “three graces,” or even waxed eloquent over “the great triumvirate.” What a charming Pompey Miss Saxe would have made, and were not the comparison open to the charge of being rather “crass,” he might have named Miss Ahearn “Crassus,” on the spot! But, no, it was the Maries he wanted, and so he has me here to represent the “quite contrary” type, which doubtless amuses you all very much, but as in the old fable, is rather hard on the frog. However, in spite of the discomfort of being used for this purpose, the frog really feels highly complimented in being associated in even a jocular way with two such well known library workers as Miss Ahearn and Miss Saxe, and for that she thanks Mr. Locke most sincerely, and will endeavour to present a thought or two, to the long suffering audience that may justify in their minds also, her presence on the platform.

Mr. Locke has asked us to discuss “What seems to me a very important aspect of our work at the present time.” I am glad that he did not say the most important; for there are so many lines which come to one’s mind, each requiring thought and work, that one is often bewildered in their very contemplation. There is one, however, which has been brought to my attention, I don’t remember how, but probably by some one putting a question which I could not answer; possibly a series of questions such as, “Do people sing and laugh as much as they used to?” . . . and then, “If not, don’t you think that we are losing a great deal?” . . . and then, “What are you doing in the library to avoid such a loss?” . . . and.

"Oh, you have books of humour and comedy; do people read them?" and then, "Well, what are you going to do about it?" and in the silly way that one will, the first thing I did was to lose two or three nights' sleep over it, before I settled down to take an inventory of what I knew about the books which might make people laugh.

All this was a couple of years ago, and in the meantime it was temporarily forgotten, as we read up war books, and gave them out to a waiting public, who took eagerly everything and anything we cared to hand them; European history or geography, international relations or military tactics. Loaning books to our adult readers in these first few months of the war was very easy. The subject was an intensely interesting one that appealed to everybody, and was, at the same time, quite impersonal, for but few of us had relatives who had reached the firing line as yet. The enthusiasm continued on into the second year, though conditions were changing. We were now all receiving letters from the front, and we worried more or less, even though we were pretty optimistic as to the outcome. Our relationship was now an entirely personal one and the bulk of the reading consisted of personal narratives of the war and novels with a war setting. Gradually this condition merged into the present, when we hear the men say they are "fed up," on the war, and the women say, "No, I don't want to hear about it," a state of affairs produced on the one hand by a terrible mental depression, and on the other by ennui at the fact that things move so slowly. The next phase will be either a fatalistic indifference, or an aggressive effort to meet life's problems like men. What influence are we, as librarians, going to bring to bear at this point—what reading? Are we going to drift with the tide, and continue to give them the mental anæsthesia that they think they want, or if not, then what? Of course, there are many social problems in which they should be interested, but do you think that now is the psychological moment in which to present them? I don't. The library has always recognized its obligation to inform; the majority of us also see that we are filling a perfectly legitimate function in simply amusing the tired world; but how about making it laugh? There! that two-year-old question has come back at me again, and with renewed force; I cannot get away from it. People are not laughing as they used to; faces are aging under our very eyes, and in keeping with that fact a sentence keeps running through my head, "I am very sure of this that the sane, well-balanced, healthy nation, must have a fund of laughter in it." This, ladies and gentlemen, is my problem, and not being a Mrs. Gummidge, and so imagining that we of the west, "feel things more than other folks," I take it for granted that it has occurred to you also, and consequently I would like to talk it over with you for a few moments.

There are two cartoonists whose work is being followed the world over. On the head of one, Raemakers, the Germans have set a price owing to the recruiting influence which he exerts by means of his realistic depiction of the horrors of the invasion of Belgium. These cartoons will live as long as the memory of man, and in the meantime, they awaken the conscience of any who should be fighting and who are not, and leave the rest of us to have nightmares as we chafe against our helplessness. A great artist and a great patriot is Raemakers, and thankful are we for the work he has done. In contrast with him is another, Bairnsfather. He is not a great cartoonist, or even a very good draftsman as he pictures the humorous side of trench life, but for this generation at least, he will be remembered with thankful hearts as the man who made the Empire laugh. Certainly that is a reputation worth having, especially when we know that his laugh in no way lessens his sympathetic understanding of his favourite privates, Bill and Bertie, nor does it in any way belittle the cause for which our boys are giving their all. In fact,



he makes use of his ability to make the soldiers laugh, as so much munition of warfare, knowing that they will fight all the better for it, that it will act upon them like a tonic, will exhilarate them like a cold plunge. Surely he is doing as important a work as Raemakers. With such an example to follow, one need hardly apologize, if one decides to also try to bring a little more laughter to the lips and hearts of some of those at home with us, many of whom are doing their part just as bravely and loyally as even our boys at the front; and so, I too, have been getting my little pile of laughter-producing munition ready.

The task has not proceeded very rapidly for I have not read a great deal of humour, or at least not deliberately, but what I have, I have tried to organize and have ready for any emergency, and some of my findings I will pass on to you. In mentioning some of the books which have made me laugh, I will doubtless only be recalling to your remembrance many of your own old favourites. On the other hand, I will undoubtedly be omitting many of equal merit which you particularly like. I would not have you think, however, that I have any intention of suggesting reading to you; all that I wish to do is to hint that there is another rather interesting viewpoint, which may be more or less novel to some of you. In such a spontaneous thing as laughter, one can have no very set rules, and so even though you may think my selection rather unorthodox, I claim the right of a free citizen, to giggle and corkle where I please, glad if you can laugh with me, but quite content if by my weak push I start you off to look for your own munition where you please.

In the first place—but tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon—I love nonsense verse, and can look with a forgiving eye on even a parodist, while I am willing to have you put me in the Stone age, with the other lovers of epigrams and such literary follies: which reminds me that the epigram was a form of humour very popular among the ancients. . . . One of the most humorous of the modern epigrams is that to Oscar Browning, who, as you remember, was familiarly known among his friends as “O.B.” He also had more than his fair share of avoirdupois.

“O.B. oh be obedient,  
To nature's stern decrees,  
For if you will not be O.B.  
You will be too obese.”

The parody, on the other hand, never came to its own until the nineteenth century, when starting with the Smith brothers, who made themselves famous with their ridiculous “Rejected addresses,” there followed William Aytoun, Theodore Martin, Richard Harris Barham and many others. Do you remember that one in imitation of the Burial of Sir John Moore?

“Not a sou had he got, not a guinea or note,  
And he looked most confoundedly flurried,  
As he bolted away without paying his shot,  
And the landlady after him hurried.”

and so on to the amusing if rather vulgar end. One of my favourite parodies is Calverley's “Tinker.”

“I loiter down by thorp and town,  
For any job I'm willing.  
Take here and there a dusty brown,  
And here and there a shilling.  
I deal in every ware in turn,  
I've rings for buddin' Sally,  
That sparkle like the eyes of her'n,  
I've liquor for the valet.”

The things I've done 'neath moon and stars,  
 Have got me into messes,  
 I've seen the sky through prison bars,  
 I've torn up prison dresses.  
 But out again I come and show,  
 My face, nor care a stiver,  
 For trades are brisk, and trades are slow,  
 But mine goes on forever."

If you are interested in parodies, look up Bret Harte, Lewis Carroll, Orpheus C. Kerr, who used to speak of himself as "Office Seeker," and Carolyn Wells, and even Kipling, Swinburne, and Thackeray, for they, too, indulged in this form of fun at times.

Those of you who have laughed over the nonsense drama in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," should surely gloat over Lewis Carroll, Edward Lear, and that prince of English humorists, Sir William Gilbert. Gellert Burgess' famous limerick,

"I never saw a purple cow,  
 I never want to see one,  
 But I can tell you anyhow,  
 I'd rather see, than be one,"

is only an echo of Lear's.

"There was an old man who said, how  
 Shall I flee from this horrible cow?  
 I will sit on this stile, and continue to smile,  
 Which may soften the heart of this cow."

Calverley, Hook, Tom Hood, and Charles Lamb, all indulged in nonsense, both in verse and prose, which reminds me that some of the keenest bits of wit to be found any place are in Lamb's letters. I need hardly call your attention to his humorous essays.

John Kendrick Bangs' "Houseboat on the Styx," was the first humorous book that caught me in its grip. I read it twice at one sitting and I would not like to say how often since. As you know it is a story of Hades. Some of the citizens, finding the climate rather warm, hire Charon and his boat, and the story centres round their conversations, Elizabeth and Eve, Darwin and Xanthippi, P. T. Barnum and Noah and many others taking part in it. I am glad to say that the author's most recent book, "From Pillar to Post," is quite as full of humour and human interest. . . . How about W. W. Jacobs? He is at his very best in his short stories. Start on his "Many Cargoes," and be sure to read the story of the "Gray Parrot." I need hardly remind you of Mark Twain either, but if some of you young people have that treat still in store for you, commence on "Tom Sawyer," and "Puddin' Head Wilson," and then take some of the short stories, such as "Eve's Diary." . . . Do you know the English author, Guthrie, who used the pseudonym of Anstey, and was the author of the "Talking Horse," and "Vice-Versa?" He also wrote that very humorous sketch a "Bayard from Bengal." This first appeared in *Punch*, that fun loving paper, which has introduced to us so many of the good things of life, and among them, Thackeray and Douglas Jerrold, Charles Keen and Leach, Owen Seaman, and our own Peter McArthur. Do you know Peter? In addition to *Punch* he has written for *Fun*, *Judge*, *Life* and *Puck*, and is known and loved in every country but Canada. New York claims him. London looks upon him as her own and Paris would love to adopt him, while we have him here in Middlesex County, and scarcely know him. It is very strange, especially when we compare his reception with that tendered to Stephen Leacock, who is read from coast to coast. Leacock, of course you know. He is



always funny (when he wants to be), but he is at his very best when Leacock reads Leacock's stories.

In mentioning some of the great English humorists, such as Dickens and Thackeray, Lever and Washington Irving, Marryat and Lover, Lowell and Oliver Wendell Holmes, one is reminded of the unfortunate fact that so many people imagine that because they are classics they only appeal to the intellectual, so-called. Of course nothing could be further from the truth, but if again, some of you are reading them for the first time, on this your search after our needed fighting material, "laughter," try picking out odd chapters, deliberately looking for the funny ones. Speaking of picking out things reminds me; has it ever occurred to you that there are but few of the classics which do not contain the keenest wit? Do you know that Moses was responsible for the saying "There are no flies on us," or that Martin Luther dearly loved a joke, or that the "Pilgrim's Progress" is full of quaint and amusing conceits, while Plato's dialogues abound in jokes at the expense of mankind's follies. You can get a laugh almost any place in the dialogues. Do you remember when Hippocrates came running to Socrates to tell him that Protagoras had arrived. Of course he was wildly excited and burst into Socrates' house, exclaiming "Protagoras has come!" To tease, Socrates pretended to be quite indifferent, and only answered, "Well, what is the matter, has Protagoras robbed you?" . . . and then they both burst out laughing in the most modern twentieth century way at their harmless little joke.

In mentioning some of our modern humorists, I almost forgot our Mr. Dooley, and John Joy Bell. Scotland's worst enemy could not fail to find fun in "Wee Macgregor." Have you read "Wee Macgregor Enlists?" If you are interested in amusing and sympathetic Irish stories try, "The Wiles of Sexton Magannis," and "All on the Irish Shore," and the "Search Party," and while you are in the mood, don't forget "Keeping up With Lizzie," and "Three Men in a Boat, not to Mention the Dog," and "Pigs is Pigs," and "In Need of a Change." You do know the "Luck of Roaring Camp," don't you? Do you ever read Bernard Shaw's comedies, and Gilbert Chesterton? Even in his editorials in the *Illustrated London News*, the latter is often very funny. He wrote such an amusing limerick, which I would like to quote, but I am afraid it would shock the ears of modest Toronto. It starts:

"There was an old sculptor named Phidias,  
Whose knowledge of art was invidious."

And there is Hilaire Belloc, who is very humorous in spots, and Stockton, (of course you know Pomona?), and Stevenson's "Wrong Bob," and many others which now come to my mind, but which must be left out on account of limited time.

This is enough, however, to give you an idea of the character of my little pile of ammunition. In gathering it I have had many a laugh, but I assure you that it has also been gathered in all seriousness, and I have it ready at hand to pass out to our readers when I see them attacked by Giant Despair, or that horrid imp, Indifference, or that green-eyed monster, Unconstructive Criticism. Sometimes the fuses fail to ignite, and sometimes we inadvertently hand out the wrong bomb, with disastrous results to our reputation, but generally they are very welcome to our weary recipient, and operate satisfactorily, and often only one shell is required to tide them over the heart-breaking attack, when they are able again, cheerfully, sanely and bravely, to return to the battle of life, and do their part towards winning in the struggle against the social, economic and moral enemies of civilization.

THE PRESIDENT: I have now very great pleasure in introducing to you Miss Mary Saxe.

## WHAT SEEMS TO ME AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE WORK OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES AT THE PRESENT TIME.

BY MISS MARY S. SAXE, WESTMOUNT, QUE.

*Mr. President, Members of the Ontario Library Association:—*

It was as far back as December, 1916, that your president in writing me said: "Try to be in Toronto at Eastertide and have a cup of tea with us." Now, that is a very innocent invitation; there was no word of any programme, simply the tea was made a *strong* inducement. I gather that since my last visit, you have become prohibition, therefore it comes within your Province to make and take your tea strong. But I assure you it was March before I learned that there was this "inside the cup" for me.

I am asked to say something on what seems to me an important aspect of our work at the present time. Now had I been asked that at Christmas, which in one sense is always the *present* time, no doubt I would have answered *salaries*. But by March I had a sober ~~and~~ thought, and I am here to tell you about it, if it is not presumptuous for ~~me~~ to come to Ontario, where your libraries are now inspected by a man who has a ~~respect~~ for what he inspects, and even to come to Toronto where dwells the very finest chief librarian in the Dominion, and pretend to tell you about any phase of the work. But you see those two very insignificant words in the context, "to me," gives me my excuse. What then seems to me an important aspect? When I read over that title I sat down in a quiet spot from whence all but I had fled, and glanced over our library log-book, a volume which contains a sort of secret history of the library's progress—it has naught to do with the statistics—and I discovered that for me there had been two very important aspects in our work: 1st, choosing the library assistant, and 2nd, this question, How many so-called "war books" should a small library buy? Now I could not decide which was the more important of the two, so I wrote to Dr. Locke and asked him to tell me which he thought would interest you the more. He replied in that graceful way of his, "Tell about them both, blend one into the other." When I saw the word blend, I knew him mind was still with the tea.

Now almost any aspect of library work is important, in so far as it effects the public. It is important to have your catalogue so mixed with brains that the public can grasp it. It is important to have your reference library in charge of a person willing to turn the volumes inside out, if she can only get what the public wants. It is certainly important to have the circulation department in charge of persons who are quick and correct, always courteous, not given to gossip, but just as nice to the most tiresome applicant as to a best friend.

Again it is important to have our juvenile department in the care of a person who has the heart and mind of a child, and yet the executive ability to keep order, statistics, and show wisdom in her book selection; and to have a committee (you see I do not put them first) who are not too biased in their opinions, nor too stingy with the funds; even to have a janitor who does not waste the coal in the cellars and can keep the snow from the roofs. But since no chain is stronger than its weakest link, so no library can give the public a better service all the time than can be given by its poorest assistant. It is a fatal mistake to feel that if there is a good head librarian any material will do for an assistant. Personally, I believe in an *a. star* cast. And it is a very sad condition of things if your library is ready to expand, and every library in Canada ought to be in that condition, and you find you cannot get assistants who can fill the parts assigned.



Now just what qualities in a person help towards making a good assistant? I can only say that it would be the easiest thing in the world to open the treasure vaults of the Bank of Montreal if one but had the combination; without it the task is hopeless. How easy it would be to manage a library oneself and to choose helpers if one could always be sure of getting the right combination—Dr. Locke would call it the right blend—of good judgment, tact, unselfishness, good temper, and promptness.

Quite irrespective of our own staff of workers, which have been for the most part recruited from the McGill University School of Library Science, there have come to us from time to time some twenty-seven persons, who, having had the theory of library science in this same summer school, were anxious to get some practical training in a public library before going on to positions in the Northwest, or into small libraries such as the Y.W.C.A. and the Y.M.C.A. in Montreal. Of these twenty-seven, two were men, and clumsy creatures they were; they didn't know what to do with their feet, while I was trying to teach them the charging system. But as they were to be head librarians, perhaps it didn't matter.

One young lady who came to us for a month had done so well throughout the course that she was engaged the two following seasons as supervisor of the student's work in the summer school. The teachers came as usual from the United States, but she was to be trusted with this task. Now sometimes supervisors are persons who can detect everyone's misdeeds except their own. She wanted to learn the charging system, so as we thought we had a treasure, we let the first desk assistant go on her vacation, and this queen of library science was put in charge. Alas! she had a most unfortunate manner with the public, she was patronizing, she was rude, she had no sense of humour, she had no vision. She was like the mite in the cheese, she beheld cheese, she thought cheese, she lived cheese. The curds and whey, the frothy pail, the stool, the milk-maid, the cow, the pastures green, entered not at all into her imagination. We discovered that the fact she had acquired a library training had gone to her head, and it was going to take her at least two years to get over it.

Now please do not misunderstand me, I am not decrying a library training. It is to be prized, but practical training is also necessary to make the former available, because experience gained from books is in the nature of learning, but experience gained from actual life is wisdom.

I am wondering if better results come from having the science first, and then trying it on an unsuspecting and heterogeneous public, or having the students in your library school consist of persons who are already in the work, as I understand you are now doing in Toronto. I do not know that one is any better than the other, but I have come in contact with pupils who have had both the training and the experience, and that have not been good assistants because that great unknown quality "human nature," will come to the surface now and then in spite of all veneer. You know that Mark Twain said that a cauliflower was only a cabbage with a college education.

There is one thing, however, that I am sure of, and that is, whether your library be great or small, whether you are working alone or in groups, trained service is better than untrained. After all the chief difference lies in the fact that in a large library the head must overlook the work done by others, while in a town library he must do most of the work himself.

In the distinctly professional duties such as book selection, classification and cataloguing, the only difference is in the amount of money to be spent on these

things. Take for instance book selection, and we come to my question, "How many war books should a small library buy?"

My second most important aspect! Do you think our President could have blended that any more gracefully than that?

To go away back to that dreadful time, the fall of 1914, when all the books we owned about Germany and the Franco-Prussian war, books about Austria, about Russia and about France, suddenly shook the dust from off their leaves and circulated, circulated, circulated—everyone seemed to be trying to clarify their history and geography. Pretty soon Poland, Servia and Italy joined the company, and then came all the published war correspondence, respecting the European crisis. And we at once started in to buy Bernhardt's "Germany and the Next War," Cramb's "Germany and England," Kennedy's "How the War Began." All these went on the request list, that meant that extra copies were wanted. At first we seemed to buy everything, "The Pentecost of Calamity," "The Hilltop on the Marne," "The Unspeakable Prussian," the spy stories, the trench yarns, the mad adventures of dispatch riders. People demand large print so that they can knit and read in unison. We have purchased in all over 200 titles, and the end is not yet. Every borrower has some pet title which he insists someone has told him is to be the classic of the war, and the publisher's catalogues teem with new titles. Now are we buying too many? What about these books in the years to come? Our Library committee say that we are overdoing it, and they point to the section of stack where the South African war books repose. There are four copies of Winston Churchill's "From London to Ladysmith." No doubt there was a time when twenty copies would have circulated, but now it is a dead book; some day it may come to life. But how should we be guided in our buying now? If a book circulates briskly for four months and then settles down as a stay-at-home, is that sufficient to prove that the money was well spent? I am very keen for your view on this point.

When the history of this almost untellable war comes to be told, how much of this present material will prove to be ephemeral, and which volumes will be read and re-read by coming generations? Who can answer that?

In closing I would like to read to you a few sentences from an article by Mr. Paul Paine, the Chief Librarian of the Syracuse Library, at Syracuse, New York, and whom some of us had the pleasure of hearing at a convention last June.

"The inspiring task of the worker in a public library is that of aiding to make knowledge spread, truth prevail, and happiness increase through the medium of the printed page. The librarian stands at the entrance of a great hall, where the choice spirits of the world, past and present, are waiting for him to introduce them to the public.

"In the background is exhibited all the past life of mankind upon the earth. In the foreground is the literature of the present. It is an instantaneous picture in print of all the present state of human achievement of thought and feeling.

"How can one be other than humble in such a presence or other than proud to be entrusted with such a task."

THE PRESIDENT: I can assure you, ladies and gentlemen, that there was nothing local in our outlook in making up the programme this year; nor was it even provincial or even purely national. You see we can hardly call Miss Black local. She is on the extreme edge of Ontario's civilization, because Ontario always prides herself on her civilization. Then we believe in the *bonne entente*, because we have had with us this afternoon Miss Saxe from Quebec. We also have great pleasure in



welcoming a representative of our latest ally in the war. (Applause.) I refer to Miss Ahern. I have now great pleasure in introducing her to you.

MISS MARY AHERN: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: I feel just exactly like the poor old Scotch woman who had a husband whom the Lord took to Himself for some reason or other. She and her boy Sandy went to the Kirk for the funeral, and the minister stood up and said so many beautiful things about the deceased; that the deceased was this and the deceased was that; that the old Scotch woman turned to her little boy Sandy and said, "See if there is another corpse in the kirk." (Laughter.) I began to tremble when Mr. Locke commenced to talk and said all those nice things about me, and when Miss Black gave you that splendid talk, than which I have not heard anything better this many a long day, I knew I was done for. Then Miss Saxe, out of her long experience in libraries, told you what the real problem of her work was, and her address was so interesting that I fell further down the line. Now, all I can do is to tell you what has come to me from observation of the people who are in library work in the hope that I may clarify some of the things which have come to me, and perhaps make a few better friends than we have been heretofore, because you will see I am at least friendly; I wear the green. We are very much like a friend of a certain Mrs. Sullivan who was looking up her lines of descent, and was saying that she sprang from this King and from that King. When she had finished she said to her friend Mrs. Sullivan, "Who did you spring from?" Mrs. Sullivan replied, "I will have you understand the Sullivans never sprang from anybody. They sprang at them."

I am sure there are those here who remember, as I do, that the first libraries we knew anything about were storehouses. Those in charge of them provided themselves with a number of books, and particularly with a number of very heavy learned books, which they got into the confines of what they called their library. The books were intended to be handled and admired by those who wished to do so and not to be touched or read by those who needed them. But all that has changed. Libraries are no longer places to be visited by teachers, historians, philosophers and the heavy-minded, but they are places where everybody who lives may find and receive that thing which will make life to them a broader, a finer and a deeper thing, and because of that, will make him or her a better citizen, a better business man, a better teacher and a better preacher; and will give the children something outside of their own town, or nation, county or state, and will make us all citizens of the world.

Those of you who receive our little "Messenger" from Chicago know that on the front page we say, "The public library is an integral part of public education," and that seems to me to be the one aspect of library work at this time that we must more and more turn our minds to if we are to justify the expense which we are to the community. Public Libraries are an integral part of the public educational scheme, and they make a community a more intelligent group of people. Too much and too long it has been felt that the library was for those who appreciated books, who were of their own volition students, and that the things that related to those subjects which made for students and scholars were the things that a library was intended for. But more and more has come the idea that everyday life was the thing which must come into the library, just as an everyday training in vocational or industrial training comes into the schools, and so now we have in our Public Libraries all over the country an effort on the part of the libraries to justify themselves for the expense they are to the community. We hear a great deal said about Boards that are not sufficiently acquainted with the needs of the community to be able to say what a library should be. But the fact is, that no Board is very much better or very much worse than the Librarian who is the centre point of the library.

Those libraries which are constantly making themselves more and more worth while, are those which bring themselves more in touch with the needs of the community and who realize the community's necessity for better living, for more intelligent citizenship, for more intelligent men and women, and boys and girls. The question as to what a library should do in this matter is a very important one to librarians, and I am pleased to say that many of them have taken a lesson from the advertising people, and the thing I wish to speak about more particularly is the question of publicity. The majority of newspapers are glad to have news of the Public Library service. They are glad to provide news that refer to the libraries, providing it has the news item in it. I am afraid our library folk have made too much of the things that they as individuals were doing, and have failed to take out of this great field of advertising a very important factor, which is the coming at the personal mind of the individual members in the community in the way of advertising. But now, when you see throughout the country the advertising that is really worth while, you find it addressed to the people who ought to be using the library and are not doing so, and items are published in the newspapers concerning the contents of the libraries and what it is possible for them to do for those who need instruction. We have made provisions in our communities for the physical betterment of the people. We have our great hospitals for the care of the physically unfit. We have our scientists on the look out for the latest and best things that have been developed or can be developed along the lines of physical apparatus in the matter of sanitation, of chemistry; in the matter of checking influences that are detrimental to the physical well-being of the community. Now, our library people are beginning to feel that there are certain influences both spiritual and mental in the community which must receive a counter-charge, that there should be an antidote, so that evil influences might be removed, and so they are bringing this to the notice of the public in ways that will make the people feel that a library is not a place where novels are merely given out or where slight entertainment might be found, but where everybody who uses a library will go from it a better citizen, stronger men and stronger women, more ambitious boys and more high-minded girls than they were before they came into the library.

I have here a list enumerating different things that people come to the library for. For instance, a clerk came to a library to borrow books with reference to South and Central America, and which would tell him just how far he should follow certain lines and who it was that was concerned in the things which he wanted to know. A poultry man signed an application for a novel, but while he was in the library he picked up a report from an agricultural association which had the very information in it he had been wanting, with the result that instead of taking home a novel he asked if he might borrow this agricultural paper in which he had discovered the thing he had found so necessary. I think Mr. Locke said that his Public Library would agree to furnish everything but relations. In some instances in the United States libraries are even instrumental in finding relations for people. I read an article some time ago about a Russian who came into Seattle, and who had expected to find there some of his countrymen who would tell him where his relatives were, but when he arrived he found that the Russians in Seattle had done what a good many other people do when they come from home with unpronounceable names; they take the name of somebody who probably has been kind to them in New York City, and they select either the name of O'Brien or Gallagher. But with regard to this particular Russian: the librarian hunted up one Russian whom he knew and put the two in communication with each other. They found out the name of the person they wanted to find and started in on a regular search of that



name through the directories which he had in his library, and by means of a directory the relative was discovered. Then, in another case, a woman wanted to know something about fireless cooking, and she went to the library and obtained all the information possible on the subject, and she has on the market to-day one of the best fireless cookers there is. That was because she went to the library and studied out the thing she wanted to know about. A man visited a library to learn something about the various emblems and insignias on the sleeves of United States officers. Now, when a man starts in on that sort of thing, in order to get that one little piece of information, he has to read a whole lot of other things, and when he finds out the meaning of those emblems, he has learned a great deal more than he had any intention of learning when he came into the library. A newspaper cartoonist came to the library to gather information with regard to his work, and as the result of his studies he is to-day one of the leading cartoonists on the New York newspapers. I could go on citing several other instances, but I only want to bring the practical side of the library service to your attention. It is a beautiful work, and there are so many beautiful things in regard to it, as Miss Black said, that we sometimes overlook. We overlook the practical, useful side of it.

It is within your power to attract to your libraries the labouring people in your town, I mean those who are really at work, whether with their heads or with their hands, and to get those people to understand that there is a line of work in the libraries that they will find very helpful to them. If they are men who are engaged in putting down a pavement, for instance, you have a chance of bringing them into the library and by showing them books relating to paving material and things which paving has done for the world, you can make them feel they are more than simply a mere part of the machinery which constructs a pavement, and you get them to take a more than ordinary interest in their work. The public library is a tax supporting institution, and there is just as great an obligation on the part of the libraries to justify themselves as any other public tax supported institution. I have here an extract from a Columbus, Ohio, paper which says, "The character of the inquiries at a modern library is interesting and suggestive. Once these came from booklovers who wanted information on some matter of history or philosophy. Now in the list of queries there is a large sprinkling of requests for information on practical everyday subjects which touch the workers in commerce, manufacturing and agriculture." Here are a few such questions as found by the Boston *Globe* in a librarian's list:

"A tailor's apprentice wanted a book on the cutting of garments; a printer, to be sure of the correct size of visiting cards; a mechanic, a method for finding the length of the third side of a triangle; another, information about the manufacture of ground glass; a lineman, how to prevent grounding by induction, and a foreman, how to pour aluminum."

This shows conclusively the drift towards the modern library, not only for entertainment and culture, but also for information which helps in the performance of everyday tasks. It shows not only what the library is doing, but what it may do even to a greater extent. It shows also how well-informed a librarian and his assistants must be, how thoroughly they must know the books that are on the shelves and how trying their tasks often are. It is not everybody who can adequately serve in a library; that service cannot be considered the resort of those who have failed in everything else. The librarian and his assistants are educators, a characterization which is becoming truer every day. If they do not teach as others do in the school, they provide the material for self-education—an education which is very often the best that is to be had."

In a recent address by Dr. Alexander, Regent of the University, New York, he very aptly says:

"The complexity of modern life has forced on every form of productive human activity, the need of the library. Even to keep from dropping behind in the march of progress, it is necessary to use every bit of help available from the experience of others. The economic boundaries of a country are world-wide. Waste and inefficiency in any place affect the markets of a continent. No course of study in any school, whatever its rank, can be more than a beginning for necessary further study. The power of research, the desire for self-education, whether for utilitarian or for cultural purposes, are not merely things to be desired; they are fundamentals of national as of personal progress. The technical school and the industrial plant have both their laboratory and their reference library. More slowly but none the less surely, the truth is coming home to all thinking people, that the agencies for voluntary and informal education and recreation, are no less essential than well paved street and adequate fire protection. Increase of leisure is a menace, not an asset, to society, if it means more time released for profitless or pernicious amusement. The man untrained to use his leisure well is as much a menace as the untrained artisan. There was much sound psychology in the old custom of making the seaman scour the anchor in preference to having them breed mutiny in the fore-castle. A much sounder psychology is shown in the provision of healthful means of recreation. The ship's library has prevented many a mutiny."

And again:

"In vocational lines the matter is different. The book which aids in gaining one's livelihood is a tool or a machine whose value is probably temporary and which is almost certain to end sooner or later on the literary scrap heap. It is impossible for any one but a plutocrat, or an institution, to get even those of great practical value. Few physicians can afford adequate private libraries. The state has established law libraries in legal centres to enable the Courts and the Bar to have access to the law. The library of a Newton or a Faraday would be insufficient for the merest tyro in any scientific pursuit to-day.

"The progress of any country, as of any individual, depends on its ability to apply past experience to present emergencies. Its safety depends on the judgment of its leaders. In a democracy where every man is a potential leader, and to some extent an actual one, national safety lies only in wide-spread common sense, good judgment, and an intelligent appraisal of new ideas, before adopting them to the exclusion of the old."

I do not know whether you are suffering from it over here as we are in the States, but I think one of the worst menaces of the public morals that is facing us to-day is the moving pictures. It is an insidious kind of thing which is taking out of our young people the power to concentrate, the power to assimilate, to judge with good taste and with any reference to past or present, the things of the present day, of actual daily life and of the things likely to come. Sometimes a good picture will be put on out of a good standard novel. I don't like that either, particularly for young people. It is like setting them down and feeding them with a spoon. I went to one of the branch libraries in Chicago to see how that kind of thing worked. When the children came in with those books which had been shown in the moving pictures, I said, "What did you think of so and so?" and the reply was that "I got the story but I didn't read the book through." I had that reply three times out of eight, and so, particularly in the small town, you must do something to bring a more severe censorship to bear on these moving pictures, or the next generation is going to be without good taste, and without judgment as to what is right or wrong, and



without the power of mind to discriminate which is true and which is false, and as for art and aesthetic taste, it is being murdered right in the face of public approval of the moving pictures. In closing may I quote the following on "Public Libraries."

"If the desired result is to be reached quickly and economically, the methods and results in all libraries receiving public money, must be as closely supervised, and as frankly criticised as those of any other institution receiving public funds.

"The higher standard of service which will result from closer inspection will of necessity bring more general public recognition of the claim of the librarian, as well as the library, to public support. Better service to the public must always precede public assent to better pay for better service. It must never be forgotten that we may provide stately buildings and all the card catalogues and other appliances and all the machinery of a public library and yet fail to provide the most important of all, a well equipped sympathetic and intelligent librarian. This must appeal to every one who has had occasion to make researches in a library.

"Let the libraries advertise not books alone, but the information in those books, the card index and reference works, that make that information available and the well-informed, courteous librarian ready to help get at it. Then, it is more than likely, the public will get the library habit.

"If the ramparts need rebuilding, take counsel of those ancient men who, after long captivity, raised again the walls of Jerusalem. Every man built in front of his own house."

THE PRESIDENT: There are some people identified with newspapers who think that what the libraries are doing is not as important as what the Daughters of the Empire or something else is doing in the community, and we find in some instances a difficulty in getting library news in the paper. If there is any person in this audience who is familiar with advertising, he will know that one has to pay higher advertising rates in the *New York Tribune* than in any other newspaper, but the morning that President Wilson made his famous declaration of war the *Tribune*, had, under the guise of news, a half column devoted to library affairs. That is the position we are coming to, providing we have something which will interest the public. I wish to emphasize the practical side, because it is the practical side we are interested in at the present time in public libraries. The public library is taking its share in the production campaign in bringing together all the books on gardening which is going to help us develop something which is found to be absolutely necessary. Here, in Toronto, we have been doing it for five years, but without attracting much attention, and perhaps we might have had to do it for a long time more except that the war and famine has brought it out. Don't be content with simply books. Go after the seed catalogues. Get the trade catalogues, because the man who wants to sell you seeds to grow tomatoes tells you in the plainest language possible just exactly what to do with the seed, and then he says "go and buy my seed." Now, we have had these inspiring addresses this afternoon. We are not going to debate them, but we are going to try to get better acquainted with one another. We wish you to get acquainted, so do not wait to be formally introduced.

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#### MONDAY EVENING SESSION..

Meeting opened at 8.15 p.m.

Chair occupied by Dr. George H. Locke, President.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am in a singular position to-night; I am Chairman of this gathering, and so I am introducing myself as the President of this Association. I am going to talk to you for a few moments:

## THE PRIVILEGES AND OBLIGATIONS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THESE DAYS OF UNREST.

GEORGE H. LOCKE, M.A., CHIEF LIBRARIAN, TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In these days in our country there is no difference between a privilege and an obligation. It is characteristic of our people that what we ought to do we have done so cheerfully that it has become a privilege, and the moral tone of the individual has been so heightened as to set a new mark of capability, willingness and even eagerness to serve, that will not easily be lowered.

And just as the individual has found that he has new powers and has tried out these powers in the service of his fellows, so the institutions of our country have been quickened and raised from their more or less abstractness and non-personal character to a more personal and practical basis of responsibility.

We have seen the churches opened and using their wonderful social power to aid in all the movements which could in any way contribute to the welfare of the great cause which is uppermost in the thoughts of all of us. The Daughters of the Empire multiplied their Chapters in the eagerness of our women to co-operate in an organized way to furnish practical relief and happiness to those who are defending the great cause. The social and fraternal societies, the Young People's Associations, and indeed in every class the organized societies transferred their energy and their desires into the great and absorbing work of the Red Cross, the Patriotic Fund, and Relief Society work. Indeed even our clubs of men, Canadian, Empire, Rotary, Commercial and Social, took advantage of their accustomed gatherings to have placed before their members by attractive and inspiring speakers the problems of the war, the progress of the war, and the responsibilities, both during the war and in the reconstruction of society which will follow.

We all recognize the picture of our country with its new ways of looking at things. The individuals and the institutions are not new or strange, but the common cause has developed those individuals and institutions for real practical social service far beyond the wildest dreams of the most sanguine political or social philosopher.

And now the question that specially interests this gathering is the position of the Public Library in this great movement.

In the first place let me say that where a Public Library was not in a flourishing state, where there was not a real interest in it, where the members of the Board had only a perfunctory interest in its affairs, and where the librarian was equally dull and uninteresting, the institution stands pretty well where it stood when times were quiet and there was but little if any community spirit. The war, the great cause, even our great national unrest, cannot galvanize a library corpse into life. For such there is nothing but burial and a new institution to arise from the ashes of the old. What we have lacked in this Province is pride in our local institutions. There has been a narrowness of outlook and a niggardliness of spirit in regard to expenditure of money on what might broadly be called local improvements, as witness the condition of town halls, parks and even schools. We have been inclined to shift our burdens upon the governments, provincial or federal, expecting them to assume responsibilities which belong to the municipality.

This lack of local pride is seen not only in the neglect of public institutions, but in its effect upon the lives of the individual citizens so that their lawns, gardens, and grounds reflect the decline of responsibility and the lack of pride. This explains the backward state of so many towns in Ontario. They are not attractive to



manufacturers because of the manifest lack of interest on the part of the people, and for the same reason they do not offer inducements to people of other places to settle among such neglectful persons who have no sense of social responsibility and, therefore, no community spirit.

Now this is being broken up by this great unrest, when as a nation we are being shaken—too gradually I fear—by the world struggle in which we are playing a part. The first great shock we had was the masterly presentation of that wonderful organized effort known as the Patriotic Fund, to care for the children and dependents of those who went to fight our battles and preserve our liberty. It was the first indication of personal responsibility and the privilege of everyone to have a part in the great cause. Logical in its presentation, psychological in its appeal, it remade our Canadian society, and with its attendant Red Cross, Belgian Relief, Secour National and humanitarian privileges and obligations, the artificial divisions of our local society broke down and we became united communities.

Just here is where the Public Library stepped in. Our emotions were aroused. What we needed was knowledge—information as to why we were at war, what the war meant not only to us personally, but to our nation, to our empire, and to the world. Where to get this information and ascertain the truth concerning the war was the uppermost thought and caused thinking people to at once consult their Public Library or to protest strongly if there were no such institution. It became for once and at once the centre of interest. It could obtain the latest and most authoritative literature upon the great subject by using the librarians of the large cities or by the office of the Inspector of Public Libraries. What the people wanted was modern or latest knowledge and at once. This our libraries should be ready to furnish. This is what I call the privilege and obligation of the Public Library. Where it does not do this the fault lies not in the Public Library but with the librarian and those citizens who accept office as trustees. There is absolutely no excuse for them in these days when there is a Library Association, where there are large city libraries eager to help, and where above all there is a government office with a superintendent and staff able and willing to make suggestions and needing only the excuse of an enquiry by mail.

There are some Public Libraries in our Province who have not realized that they are community centres, that do not keep up-to-date literature on the great movements of the day, that do not make their premises attractive places, where the members of the board do not take a real live interest in their institutions, where the librarian, probably poorly paid and poorly equipped, registers the will of her board—and the books asked for.

There are fewer of these than before the war. We have wakened up. We are actually feeling the need of information, of knowledge and of intelligence. There is a new spirit abroad in our Province, a spirit of social unity, a spirit of liberality of opinion as well as of money, a spirit of social responsibility, and above all an awakening to the fact that we have been niggardly in the past in regard to everything. We have a reserve strength of money, brains, initiative and resourcefulness, the extent of which we never dreamed and would not have believed had anyone tried to convince us.

And in this new world there is nothing added to it which was not there before. It is but a development of the possibilities that were lying dormant in us, and equally is it true of our institutions which are but reflections of ourselves. In these new, or rather renewed communities that will arise, the centre should be the one institution where all, both old and young, can come together irrespective of any artificial distinction, and gain the desired knowledge, and this, I hope, in congenial social atmosphere far removed from silence signs and reproachful countenances.

To accomplish such a desirable end there must be intelligence on the boards of our libraries. What we need on these boards is a representation of the younger men and women. Time has passed when the artificial method of adding clergymen and school teachers sufficed to give an air of intelligence. They are useful when they are interested intelligent persons sympathetic with the aims of the Public Library. They must be treated as individuals and not as representatives of any institution. There is no connection between the church or the school or any other institution and the Public Library. The adult borrowers may be church members but not necessarily so; the children may go to school but not necessarily so. The Public Library is not concerned with these things.

And the librarian should be an intelligent person, interested in all classes, conversant with what the outside world is doing and thinking, especially the communities similar in size and conditions to that of whose library she is the head. Of course she should be a trained person, just as we demand that a person who teaches in our schools should be trained. Time was when the position of librarian was like that of the old dame-school type, the refuge of some maiden lady who had suffered reverses and who simply "had to do something to live." Time was, also, when a relative of some prominent or persistent member of the board needed a position and "keeping the books in a library" seemed to be a genteel occupation and so we had "the cousin of the sister of my uncle," much like the description in the wonderful French exercises in the High School Grammar.

But "times have changed since Hannah died" and the unrest in library matters is a healthy sign. We are on the eve of great developments in our Province. The best news I can give is that we are beginning to realize the privileges and obligations of the great free-municipal institution known as the Public Library where he who wishes to develop and become efficient may find the environment and the tools. All he needs is his own effort. When the realization of this comes to us we shall not long hesitate to make over our local organization to bring about this realizable, and in some places, I am glád to say, realized ideal.

THE CHAIRMAN: Up to the last moment I expected that the person who is down on the programme to-night, Mr. Charles H. Thurber, would be present and, needless to say, it is not only with disappointment but with keen disappointment to me he is not here.

He has filled many important positions until now of all educational editors of the United States—that is, men in charge of great editorial work—he is the greatest. And I feel a diffidence in appearing to-night in his place. However, I must undertake the task of reading his paper.

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## THE ART OF MAKING BOOKS.

CHARLES H. THURBER, M.A., PH.D., BOSTON, MASS.

A favourite device for teaching geography is the so-called dinner-table method. Since it applies the principle of proceeding from the known to the unknown, it seems to be based on sound psychology. If the child knows anything it knows what is on the dinner-table. Where did the tea and the coffee and the pepper come from? The grocery store. But where did the grocer get them? For the city child even the origin of the butter and milk and cream might be equally mysterious. Knives and forks and table linen would open up other industries and



other lands. If all the materials on the dinner-table were merely collected and thrown there, however, you would not have a dinner but a mess. The artist who transforms the mess into a palatable, nutritious, even luscious dinner, is the cook. But we have recently discovered that the cook must see to it, not only that the materials are properly assembled and mixed and presented, but also that they contain a proper amount of certain mysterious substances or qualities which have not yet been isolated, about which very little is known, but which are absolutely indispensable for the health and vigour of the human machine. These elusive and mysterious substances or principles are called *vitamines*. About all we know of them at the present time is that they are found in certain food materials prepared in a certain way, that they are not found in the same food materials differently prepared and that it is absolutely unsafe for the human race to try to get along without them.

The art of making books may be approached in a similar way. Take up any book and you will find it offers as many or more varieties in the way of material than the dinner-table. The first thing you see is the cloth on the cover, which can be followed a long way to the fields where the plant was grown, through the mills where the cloth was manufactured, and then to the special book-cloth mill where the cloths are put through a secret process. There is the dye which must have been used in colouring the cloth. There is, perhaps, gold on the cover, real gold, which leads us to consideration of the ancient art of the goldbeater. Without opening the book you see that it is composed of a great mass of paper. What is the paper made of? Rags from a Mediterranean port, or pulp, the ignoble end of some monarch of the forest? Here is a whole vast industry with all its ramifications, from the materials and chemicals used to the nations that contribute them, an enormous industry with many picturesque features. There is glue; there are bits of cloth to hold the book into the binding; there is thread used to sew the leaves together; there is ink on the pages. How did the ink get on the pages in the form which makes an intelligible, readable document? It was put there by pressing the paper against metal,—metal type or more likely in these days metal plates. Where did the metal come from? How many different kinds of metals are used? How are they arranged in just this particular way? There may be pictures. How did they come into being? If all the materials that go into a book were merely thrown together we should no more have a book than we should have a dinner if the materials on the dinner-table were thrown together. It is the cook who takes the materials for the dinner-table, arranges them properly, saves them from becoming a mess and makes them a dinner. So there must be some agency to perform a like function for the materials which go into a book. There must be, to carry out the figure, a *book cook*. That, for many years, has been my job.

Now the dinner cook does not need to know absolutely everything about the origin of the materials that go into his dinner,—he may know very little about them and yet be a very good cook. So the book cook need not know everything about the origin and preparation of all the materials that go into a book, but both cooks, if they are to succeed, must know when their materials are good and how to combine them properly. Finally, just as in the dinner there must be these elusive, mysterious elements called *vitamines*, or else the dinner doesn't minister properly to our physical needs, so the book must contain the vital elements of fact, or thought, or fancy, which are the *vitamines* of the heart and the mind and the soul. These book *vitamines* the author must supply. Bad materials and poor

cooking obviously spoil a dinner. If the food vitamins are not there, that defect, while more fatal, is not obvious. It is quite possible to have a dinner that looks good and tastes good, that would be lacking in food vitamins, so that if we ate only such dinners we should pine away physically. Bad materials and poor cooking may spoil the physical appearance of a book, and yet the author may have the spiritual vitamins in it. Good materials and good cooking may make a good-looking, artistic-appearing book which is, after all, defective in soul vitamins. A good literary critic's job should be to analyze a book and discover whether it does contain these elusive, intellectual vitamins which are the only legitimate reason for the publication of any book. Milton says, "A good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit." If it be scientific or technical it may represent years of labourious research on the part of the author; if a work of literature, it may present the finest flowers of sentiment and fancy and imagination. A true book is the ultimate expression of the subtlest and highest elements in the author's intellect and soul.

It is not my place, however, to discuss literature nor to go into a detailed account of the mechanical side of book-making. I am here primarily as the cook to describe, if possible,—and I find it very difficult, as most men do, to describe my own work, particularly when it is of a somewhat complex and elusive character,—to describe as well as possible how the complex of physical and spiritual elements, the raw materials and the vitamins of a book are worked together into the finished product.

Men have recorded their thoughts and achievements from prehistoric times, so that books in one form or another are among the most ancient possessions of the human race. Hammurabi published his wonderful code, which has been preserved to us these thousands of years to be discovered again only in the present generation, by means of baking it in bricks. The commandments were graven on stone; many ancient records have been discovered graven on stone. Books were written on papyrus, on tablets of wood or ivory, and later, writing on parchment, until the discovery of printing, was the only method generally practised for producing books in the European civilizations. You have your own conceptions of what a library is or should be, but you see that it may well have been a pile of bricks, a collection of stone pillars, a heap of papyrus rolls or of wood or ivory tablets, a collection of parchment manuscripts. Yet the essential function of the library, so far as it is limited to the preservation of knowledge or literature, was the same in the heap of stone or the pile of bricks as it is in the most modern library in the world. It is astonishing to think how long this essential idea of a library as the jail of knowledge, dominated the world. The replacing of the jailer spirit by the missionary spirit in the library is the achievement of the last quarter century, if not of the last decade. As a book might have been of brick or of stone or something else, so the art of the printer or the art of making books was played successively by the baker or the stonecutter or the penman. The latter art as practised by the monks, especially in those wonderfully illuminated parchments, is a marvellous example of human skill and patience and often of the highest artistic achievement.

All this time and until long after the invention of printing, books, it hardly need be said, were rare and costly treasures. When we consider how they had to be preserved and the vicissitudes to which they were subjected all through the turbulent ages, the wonder is not that so much of our ancient literature has been lost, but that on the whole so much has been preserved. When reading and writing



were themselves mysteries which only a few of the initiated could practise, when great monarchs could at most sign their own names, small wonder that the book produced with such toil was looked upon with awe, and that not only the Bible as the Book of books, but all other books were to a great extent objects of reverence.

The invention of printing did not immediately change this condition, for the early printing presses were few and the process was slow, labourious and expensive. Really it is only in the present generation that books have become cheap and common and sometimes, alas, though properly enough, despised. The multiplication of books, the cheapening of their prices and the dissemination of knowledge are all ultra-modern, and so long as they do not lead to that contempt which is natural to human nature for everything that is cheap and common, to a contempt for books and for knowledge, this modern development is altogether good.

The parties involved in the production of the book are the author, the publisher, the printer or manufacturer, and the buyer or public. These different parties to the transaction are generally all different individuals. A few large publishers are also printers or manufacturers, and occasionally an author undertakes to be his own publisher. Books have been written on the relations between authors and publishers, and the Scripture even has been perverted to parody these relations, making that passage, which is so well known to all of you that I need not quote it in its proper form, read, "Now Barabbas was a publisher." Yet as a matter of fact these relations are to-day generally based on mutual confidence and respect.

The first step in bridging the chasm between the author's brain and the manufactured book in the hands of the public is in making the arrangement between the author and the publisher. Here the initiative may come from either side. Quantitatively speaking, it comes from the author's side. Authors are always seeking publishers. A large percentage of the seekers do not find and do not deserve to find success, but many of them do deserve success. Authors often have the feeling that their work is not given careful consideration by publishers. They should remember that the publisher has no other way of making his living except by selling books and that he can't sell books unless he gets saleable books on his list. The foundation of every publishing house is the securing of good books and it must continue to secure a constant stream of such good books or it will fail. Mistakes of judgment are made, of course. Ben Hur sought a publisher for some ten years and David Harum was rejected by most of the great publishing houses in the United States before one editor saw its possibilities and opened the way to its enormous sales. On the other hand, great sums of money have been lost on books which never returned the cost of their printing. Most people can hide a fair share of their mistakes, and generally do. The publisher must flaunt his mistakes in the eyes of all the world. When he has cooked his intellectual dinner he invites every one to partake of it and he is seldom so fortunate as to please all of his guests. He often has the experience of being commended and condemned for precisely the same thing and occasionally in the same mail.

But while authors are always seeking publishers, it is also true that publishers are always seeking authors. Those authors who have already established their fame in whatever line of writing are reasonably sure to be approached by various publishing houses with requests for their work. It is the duty of the editorial manager of a publishing house not only to pass upon the propositions and the manuscripts that authors submit, but also to canvass carefully the possibilities for new books. This is particularly true, of course, with publishers who specialize in educa-

tional and technical lines. Knowing the task to be done, the editor must find the person to do it. Wide acquaintance helps. Searching and long-continued inquiry is necessary. Having found your man, you must present your case attractively and at the same time honestly. In delicate negotiations personal interviews are better than the best letters, and your desired author may be in California or England. Often the best appeal is not the financial appeal. Here may well be said that in my experience the best books are made by men and women who have something they believe in enthusiastically, something that seems to them a high privilege and a compelling duty to bring before the world.

In this search disappointments are many. Perfect plans only too often come to no fulfillment. The author may die, or he may live and not work. I know one case where a book was kept standing in type for fifteen years, waiting for the author to write the introduction and give the final reading to the proof. At last he wrote the publishers that the book did not represent his opinions any longer and he should never allow it to be published. I know another instance where the plates of a book have been ready nearly twenty years, waiting only for some matter at the beginning and end. Nearly every year the author explains why he has not finished the work and promises to complete it without delay. Again, authors, especially the best of them, are apt to be gifted with the artistic temperament, so that each is prone to write in his separate star the thing as *he* sees it, and to make a perfect book for whomsoever wants that sort of a book. The trouble then is likely to be that nobody wants it. It is part of my professional creed that there is absolutely no quarrel between the ideal book and the counting room. That needs explanation and qualification, but is essentially true. Naturally there are many splendid books that can never be profitable because they are written for a very few specialists who alone can and will read them. Parenthetically, it may be said that such books generally sell at a high price, the only chance to get back the cost. The publisher generally does not make money on the very expensive books. To come back to my theme, I illustrate it by showing that the biggest seller the world has ever seen is the Bible. How much good would that wonderful Book do if nobody bought it and nobody read it? The same is true in a degree of every good book, whether its purpose be to entertain, to instruct or to inspire.

Here comes in again the function of the *book cook*. No one person is competent to pass on all the manuscripts on all the subjects that a publishing house with a large list has to consider. There must be a larger or smaller staff of editorial advisers or readers, as they are often called. Some of these are employed regularly, some of them are more or less regularly retained and some are consulted as specialists only from time to time. A manuscript may be read by a dozen of these advisers, and often it is no easy task for the editor to make out from all these reports what the verdict should be. He reads the manuscript himself along with the reports and when, as is often the case, some of the readers are warmly favourable, some decidedly unfavourable, and some neither hot nor cold but merely lukewarm, the final judgment may be hard to reach. The jury disagrees, but the judge must decide. He may see that the public will disagree, just as his advisers do—that here is a book with real individuality. If the editor were as wise as he ought to be he would always know when he accepted a book for publication just what constituency it would please and where it would run against hostile criticism. A book that neither especially pleases nor displeases anybody is not worth publishing.



As a result of all this criticism by the readers and advisers and, hopefully, of some skill of his own, the head book cook ought to see two things clearly—first, what the real merits of the manuscript are, if it has any; and second, how its defects may be minimized so as to make the book appeal to the widest possible audience. There may be passages in the book that will give offence to some particular class. Generally the author has not willed to give offence—he simply isn't aware of the sensitive spots. In the United States, with its multitude of races and creeds, these sensitive spots are very numerous. The book may be too large or it may be too small; it may contain material irrelevant to the main theme—mere padding, weakening the whole effect of the book—or it may omit some points essential to a well-rounded, satisfactory treatment of its subject. If it is a textbook for school use, there are innumerable other detailed requirements to be considered. If the manuscript has in it the making of a real book, then it is the duty of the editor to point out to the author its defects as he sees them and to recommend that the manuscript be revised accordingly. By this service many a book, impossible as it came first from the hands of the author, has been made a great success and done the world a great service. If a book has a real message or can do a real service, then the editor does a high kind of service in so changing that book that instead of reaching a thousand people it may reach and serve and inspire a hundred thousand or a million people. Of course, there are many worthless books that also reach millions. So does the influenza.

The manuscript, let us assume, has finally been accepted and is ready to be turned into a book. What road must it travel before it reaches that goal? I will not undertake to speak in detail of all the processes, particularly as it is hard to describe them clearly and interestingly. But there are two elements for which I may perhaps profitably take a few moments of your time.

The first of these is the work of what I shall term the book architect. Page architecture is an accepted and commonly used term. The phrase "book architecture" is not in common use, but it is needed, and as the art of book-making is more and more developed, this phrase or an equivalent must be generally adopted. As a matter of fact, it describes the work, in a well-organized publishing house, of a definite person. It includes page architecture, upon which it is based, for the size of the page determines the size of the book. There are established rules now for good typographic arrangement of the page, rules that so far as school books are concerned are practically laws based on the principles of school hygiene. Here be it observed that these rules as laid down by school hygienists in the United States, and I believe this is true in England, cannot be complied with accurately because they are based on foreign studies where the metric system prevails and our type foundries do not work on that basis. Do the best we can, we shall be a millimeter or so out of the way! The size of type, spacing, number of lines on a page, size and shape over all, including margins, the placing of illustrations on the page, are all questions of page architecture. Books tend to be of the same general shape, and this is no accident but an established canon of the printing art. The golden oblong (5 x 8) is the best form, and departures from it are either for some good specific reason or else from ignorance. The book architect must choose the size and weight of paper, and many elements have to be carefully weighed in making this choice, such as the use to which the book is to be put, whether it is to be illustrated or not and if so, how; he must select the cloth for the binding and when his specifications are all made out, he must prepare a dummy which will show exactly how the finished book will look and even how much it will weigh. Sometimes several dummies must be made before one gets the *o.k.* of the chief.

The other topic which ought not to be passed by in any discussion of the art of book-making is the illustrations. Into all of the technical questions of reproduction it will not be possible to enter. It is enough to call attention to the crude wood engravings in the New England Primer, which were practically the only kind of illustrations available up to a comparatively recent time, and ask you to compare those with the fine pictures so commonly found in our best books to-day. Wood engravings, to be sure, are not necessarily crude. The best wood engravers were great artists and the best wood engravings were perhaps the most expensive illustrations ever used,—a single one, to my knowledge, having cost \$400. for the engraved wood block. The very fact that good wood engravings were so costly limited their use. The invention and improvement of photo-engraving has brought excellent illustrations within the reach of moderate purses. It may be noted that in photo-engravings, or halftones as they are commonly called, there is very great difference in cost. You may get them for ten cents a square inch or for twenty-five or thirty-five cents a square inch, or even more. The modern processes of colour printing have also opened up a wonderful field for the beautifying of books.

The originals from which these reproductions are made are in part photographs and as such need no special consideration here. But original drawings and paintings are also used. These are of all degrees of excellence and of all grades of cost. Many of the very best, and incidentally the highest priced, artists devote much of their time to book illustrating. The planner of the book has to decide how good an artist he can afford to employ for the book in question and he needs to have at his command a large number of artists, the more the better, upon whom to draw when he needs their services. The art editor, therefore, is a necessary and a very important officer, not only in an illustrated magazine or paper, but also in a book-publishing house.

This work of illustrating is often carelessly done. The drawings may be poor or they may be poorly adapted to illustrate what they are intended to illustrate. Sometimes pictures seem to be stuck into a book without much regard to their relation to the text, but merely as embellishments. This is frequently the case in novels. You can all recall instances where the text describes the heroine with dishevelled hair and bathed in tears, while on the opposite page is a beautiful picture of the heroine at the same moment in an afternoon gown and a garden hat, wreathed in smiles and radiant with happiness. Or the hero is described in the text as doing something calling for an outing shirt and tennis shoes and depicted on the opposite page in a silk hat and correct afternoon dress. Things of *this* sort "get by" in books of *that* sort, but they will never get by in serious books, particularly in educational and scientific books. The illustration in that case is often absolutely essential to the proper explanation of the text and it must be made absolutely accurate. Sometimes it is very difficult to get this done. You have no idea of the immense amount of pains that must be taken in what would apparently be so simple a matter as getting correct diagrams for a mathematical book. They are perhaps more often drawn incorrectly than correctly. Few artists or draughtsmen who are competent to make the drawings properly have an intelligent understanding of the subject they are trying to illustrate.

It is a happy time for the art editor when on approaching an artist with a proposition to illustrate some book, he is welcomed with enthusiasm and told that that particular book is something that the artist will regard not as a job alone but as a joy. I recall a recent instance that came to my attention. The publisher approached probably the most distinguished black-and-white artist in England to



see if he would illustrate an edition of "Tom Brown at Rugby." The artist replied that this was a plan that he had cherished for years, that he welcomed the opportunity to do it, stipulating only that he should have his own time for the work and agreeing to make, for a large sum, but not too large under the circumstances, a certain definite number of drawings. The agreement was made and nothing further was heard from the artist until the drawings came in, with a letter in which he stated that he had gone to Rugby, spent much time there, made all of his sketches on the spot and enjoyed it beyond almost any other work that he had ever undertaken—I believe he was a Rugby boy himself—and that he had made something like twice the number of drawings he had agreed to make, all of which were at the publisher's service for the price agreed upon. The publisher could use them all if he chose, or make such selections as he wanted to. The drawings were superb and that book will be a properly illustrated edition.

A great many books are published into which consciously the art of making books has not entered at all, and if they are well and artistically made it is apparently by accident. Yet that is not really true. There are many able men and women who are devoting their lives to the making of good books. Now and then one of these men manages a small printing plant of his own and is his own master artist and master craftsman. Such a one, like Updike of Boston, may have a more than national fame. Others work for the few publishing houses that keep their standards high and find their reward in the satisfaction of good work well done quite as much as in the money return. These men are organized into societies in the larger cities, hold regular meetings, get the benefit of the group experience, and even publish their own craft organs. The work of these artists is leavening the taste of the whole reading public. Their influence reaches vastly beyond their own productions. When the publisher who does not know much about the art of making books sends a manuscript to his printer, he is apt to send along with it a book he likes and tell the printer to copy its style; or if the publisher gives no such instructions nor any instructions, the printer may choose some model already in existence to follow. The printer is very apt to have good taste and to care for the good appearance of his finished product. The models selected are pretty sure to be the product of some printer who has studied the art of making books. In this way the work of the specialists is copied by many who never heard of them and certainly never helped pay their salaries. When publisher X, who spends not a cent for printing art, tells his printer to put out a certain manuscript just like publisher Y's book, Y being publishers who spend thousands of dollars a year for their special book designers, Y may be flattered but not altogether pleased. But Y can't help himself and X can help himself to all of Y's ideas! The public thus gets the benefit of all the best experimental work done anywhere. So the crude, flamboyant, showy book is more and more not being done, and the simple, dignified, truly artistic book is more and more preferred even by those who have never analyzed the reason for that preference.

To repeat Milton's words, "A good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit." It is not primarily a thing of cloth and paper and ink, no matter how artistically arranged, no more than a tailor's dummy, no matter how radiantly attired, is a man. But a decent man desires to be decently and becomingly dressed and a good book deserves the same. This dress should be sound and durable. It is amazing to see what a large proportion of books that deserve better treatment and for which, incidentally, good prices are charged, are not even decently well made, though they may look well superficially. I have not dealt much in the technicalities

of book making, because it would be impossible in the limited time to give you any permanently useful information, and to have tried to do so would have made my remarks even duller than they have been. But I cannot refrain from saying that if every librarian as a part of his or her training had some sound instruction in the processes of book manufacturing and librarians then refused to buy books that were not soundly made, the result would be altogether good. Because they do not have this accurate knowledge, librarians now sometimes make impossible demands and yet fail to demand what is perfectly possible and perfectly right. It is always to be remembered, of course, that a book is made of paper and cloth held together by thread and glue, not of armour plate and steel rivets, and that paper and glue will not stand as much hard treatment as armour plate.

Librarians, authors, editors, publishers—we are all engaged in the same great ministry to the minds and souls of men and women and little children. We may conceive our office nobly or ignobly. The librarian may be a base jailer of knowledge, the author may be an intellectual panderer, the publisher may be a soulless trafficker. Our concern is not with such as these. We conceive our ministry to be as sacred as any human calling, for we are guardians and dispensers of the winged words that inform and cheer, uplift and inspire. In our charge society places the solemn trust of preserving and passing on to posterity the records of the achievements of that civilization which you and I believe shall not be allowed to perish from the earth.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I take it that I may send Dr. Thurber the thanks of the audience. (Applause.) And I hope that some day he will come over and then you will see him face to face and hear him read his own production. I feel the difficulty of reading the production of another man, even a man I know as well as he, because there are many places he would stop to elaborate. And so I shall, with your permission, convey that message to him.

The evening is over.

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## TUESDAY MORNING SESSION.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1917.

On resuming at 9 a.m.

**THE PRESIDENT:** I call upon the Committee on Nominations to present its report.

**MR. WILLIAMS:** Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: I have very much pleasure in moving the adoption of the report.

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## REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

Your Nominating Committee would recommend the following officers for the ensuing year:

**Officers.**—President, Miss Mary J. L. Black, The Public Library, Fort William; 1st Vice-President, F. P. Gavin, B.A., The Public Library, Windsor; 2nd Vice-President, D. M. Grant, B.A., The Public Library, Sarnia; Secretary-Treasurer, E. A. Hardy, B.A., D.Pæd., 81 Collier Street, Toronto.



*Councillors.*—W. J. Sykes, B.A., The Carnegie Library, Ottawa; W. H. Murch, The Public Library, St. Thomas; Miss B. Mabel Dunham, B.A., The Public Library, Kitchener; R. H. Bellamy, The Public Library, Mt. Brydges; J. T. Lillie, B.A., The Public Library, Orillia; Geo. H. Locke, M.A., ex-President, The Public Library, Toronto.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. WILLIAMS, *Chairman.*

M. T. BUTTERS:

EVA DAVIS.

W. H. MURCH.

W. BRIDEN.

The motion "that the Report and Resolutions of the Committee on Nominations be adopted," was carried.

THE PRESIDENT: I have pleasure in bringing to your notice two blue prints which may furnish you with some idea of the trouble to which it is necessary to go in order to secure satisfactory external appearances for our buildings. If you visit the branch library at Wychwood you will find a garden laid out just like that. (Indicating one of the prints.) A few shrubs cost but very little and require but little care in order to keep them in a condition such as you would like to have them in your own garden. This print (indicating) shows the manner in which the garden of the High Park Library is laid out, and these are perennials; so that those of you who are interested in perennials may care to go to High Park and see what is being done there.

The exterior of a library should receive as much thoughtful consideration and care as the interior, so as to make it attractive to the passing public. A building which presents a gloomy external appearance, rapidly acquires a like atmosphere inside, and the circulation never grows. One of the reasons for the fact that our grant from the City Council has been unquestioned this year and last is because we have succeeded in awakening the interest of the boys and girls and men and women of Toronto in our Public Library; they believe in the work we are doing.

Those who are interested in visiting either the Wychwood or High Park branches this afternoon are requested to leave their names in my office down stairs.

I now call upon the Committee on Resolutions to present its report.

MR. CASWELL: Mr. President, and fellow-members of this Association: It is said that good resolutions are made to be broken; they are sometimes made to be forgotten, and there is a nice division of labour among the members of the Association in this respect in as much as that the Committee on Resolutions fearlessly creates resolutions and the Executive receives them and promptly forgets them. I am hoping, however, that the Executive for this year will bear in mind that one of the powers it possesses is to execute, and that more attention will be paid to the resolutions than was paid to them during the past year.

With your kind permission I will read the report through and then it can be dealt with seriatim.

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#### REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE.

Your Committee present for consideration the following recommendations:

1. That with respect to the resolution forwarded from the Dundas Public Library relative to a change in the classification of books by the Department so as to admit certain classes of novels into the non-fiction class, we recommend non-concurrence.

2. That the Association endorse and strongly commend the recommendation of the Inspector of Public Libraries, in his report to the Minister of Education, that larger provision be made for the professional training of librarians. To this end we approve of the suggested plan to organize a one-month course for those unable to take a longer one, and a three-months course (of which that for one month shall form a part) for those desirous of a longer period of training. We heartily commend the effort to raise the standard of qualifications for library service and trust that regulations may be framed looking to this end without unduly disturbing those now holding library positions.

3. That believing that the free use of books had by recourse to Travelling Libraries tempts to abuse by localities well able to maintain libraries of their own, this Association recommends to the Department that where this seems to be the case the privilege be granted for no longer a term than two years.

4. That the whole question of library extension to the rural districts be taken up for consideration by the Executive during the coming year, with the hope that some definite scheme may be presented at the next meeting of the Association for consideration, and, if adopted, for recommendation to the Minister of Education.

5. That the Association appoint a deputation to discuss with the Government an amendment of the Public Libraries Act extending to Library Boards the powers now enjoyed by Boards of Education of selecting and purchasing sites and erecting buildings thereon to be paid for out of the general taxes; and, also, to urge on the Government that the Act be further amended to provide for an obligatory rate of a half-mill on the dollar of assessment in all cities exceeding 100,000 in population.

6. That the interests of Library work in the Province would be better served were there fewer Institutes held and larger districts organized for each, regard being had for the larger centres of population and the convenience of access and accommodation.

7. That the Association declare its lively satisfaction at the establishment of a Canadian Library journal, that Mr. Carson be complimented on the appearance and character of the *Library Review*, and that this publication be commended to the hearty support of all interested in Library work in the Province.

8. That the Association give its heartiest encouragement to the organization of historical museums and collections of pictures in connection with our Public Libraries, and offer the suggestion that such action would form a fitting way of commemorating the semi-centennial of Canadian confederation.

9. That a memorial be forwarded from this Association to the Dominion Government urging the recognition of the principle of universal service as a logical and natural accompaniment of universal suffrage, believing, as we do, that no citizen of a civilized country should be allowed to elect whether or not his services should be given to the State when the need arises.

10. That it is the profound conviction of this Association that the accumulation of colossal private fortunes wrung from the country in the necessities of war should not be tolerated, and that the Government be urged to provide that an adequate share of the burden of cost of the war be borne by those to whom it has brought an inordinate increase of wealth.

11. That the Association record its deep sense of sorrow and loss in the death, during the past year, of Dr. C. R. Charteris, of Chatham, and Mr. Andrew Denholm, of Blenheim, the former a highly esteemed past President of the Association, and the latter a faithful and enthusiastic member; also of Mr. Alex. Steele, M.A., of Orangeville, one of the original members of the Association, present at the first meeting in Toronto, 1901. The years of their earnest co-operation in our work



and the exceedingly pleasant personal relations which existed between them and us give us a feeling of personal loss. And that the Association extend to the surviving members of the bereaved families its sincere sympathy.

12. That at the conclusion of the consideration of this Report a vote be taken by the Association on the proposal that the next annual meeting be held in the City of Hamilton.

13. That the thanks of the Association be extended to Miss Ahern, editor of *Public Libraries*; Miss Saxe, of the Westmount Library; Dr. C. H. Thurber, of Boston, and to the several members of our Association, who have contributed so ably to the programme of this meeting; to the Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister for their generous consideration of the needs of the Libraries; to the Inspector of Public Libraries for his untiring devotion to the interests of our work, and to the Board of Management and the officers and staff of the Toronto Public Library for the use of the buildings and the courtesies so kindly shown.

Resolution No. 1. Carried.

Resolution No. 2. Carried.

Resolution No. 3:

MR. MOORE: Have you a concrete case? I would rather see that eliminated.

MR. CASWELL: I think there are concrete cases. It is certainly a temptation to a locality not to take the trouble to organize a library of its own if it can obtain free books.

THE PRESIDENT: We are upholding the inspectors.

MR. HARDY: Does this refer to where a library exists?

MR. CASWELL: Yes.

MR. MOORE: There is no great loss, and no person suffering.

Resolution carried.

THE PRESIDENT: This Association is endeavouring to assist each individual community to help itself, and I think that is the fundamental factor in everything in British practice.

MR. CASWELL: You will remember that the Secretary in his report outlined a scheme, but there was not sufficient time to debate upon it when we were in committee and there is little time to debate upon it here, for it is a pretty large question. We believe, however, that when the Executive gives its consideration to the matter, it will be able to evolve something, either adopting Dr. Hardy's proposal or a modification thereof.

I move the adoption of Clause No. 4. Resolution carried.

Perhaps Resolution No. 5 may be stated as embracing a principle and also the desire of the Association, but owing to the fact that it involves an amendment of the Public Libraries Act it will have to be referred to the Legal Committee for consideration. I do think, however, that the principle contained in the resolution is one that will have the unswerving support of every member of the Association.

MR. WALKER: It is a half mill in municipalities below 100,000.

MR. CASWELL: Yes; but, when 100,000 is reached it drops to a quarter mill.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me say here that the City of Toronto is not the person urging this. There are other cities reaching 100,000 and those cities, which failed to appreciate our position before, appreciate our position now. As their population increases, their revenue decreases. They urged us to bring this question up.

MR. WALKER: I am heartily in accord with that part of the clause, but according to my understanding of the law, it seems to me that the proposed amendment is very wide and goes beyond the powers of a Board of Education.

**THE PRESIDENT:** I think the Board of Education here selects its sites for buildings.

**MR. WALKER:** Not out of the general taxation. In the town I come from we have both a Board of Education and a Separate School Board, and the Board of Education has to do only with the property of public schools and quarters, except in the case of high schools. I think we should consider the matter for a year.

**THE PRESIDENT:** You think this would not include Separate School Boards.

**MR. WALKER:** I do not think so.

**THE PRESIDENT:** It says "Boards of Education" not "a Board of Education."

**MR. ROBERTSON:** The assertion that Boards of Education have the right to select sites and pay for them is not correct. In St. Catharines the Trustees have no power whatever to get the money, although they can select the sites.

**THE PRESIDENT:** It says "Paid for out of the general taxation."

**MR. CASWELL:** This was suggested by the experience in Toronto, Mr. Robertson. The Board of Education in Toronto, I understand, selects its sites and then requisitions the City Council for the money, and then the City Council have practically no option but to pay it.

**MR. ROBERTSON:** The City Council can pay it if they wish to do so, or they can submit it to the vote of the people to see whether it shall be paid or not; and the people might vote the whole thing down.

**MR. MOORE:** High School Boards have not that authority; Public School Boards have a limited authority.

**MR. CASWELL:** This could be amended by striking out the words "powers now employed by the Board of Education."

**MR. ROBERTSON:** Our Boards, in every case, are appointed bodies. To give an appointed body the power to select and pay would not, I fancy, be permitted by the Legislature. That is, perhaps, why High School Boards are not allowed that power. If we were an elected body, we should be in a different position entirely.

**MR. CASWELL:** The clause reads "that the question be discussed with the Government"; surely no one can object to that.

**MR. GAVIN:** Is it suggested that the Legal Committee should adjust this matter?

**THE PRESIDENT:** That it be reported to the Legal Committee.

**MR. GAVIN:** I move that this clause be referred to the Legal Committee.

**MR. WILLIAMS:** I think it should be referred as "approved" by us.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Legal Committee have to report back to us.

Amendment carried.

Resolution No. 6.

**DR. HARDY:** It seems to me that a radical change like that, involving as it does a change of procedure for a period of ten years, ought not to be passed without very careful consideration, and I think it might well be referred to the Library Institute Committee (which is meeting this afternoon) with or without approval.

**MR. CASWELL:** Neither the Resolutions Committee nor this Association generally would dictate how many Institutes should be formed. This clause is merely an expression of opinion of the Association; and is passed on to the Committee.

**MR. WALKER:** In what way would the reduction of the number of Library Institutes make the work more effective?

**THE PRESIDENT:** Well, the principle, as I understand it, is this: It might be necessary, because of the way in which transportation is being confused in this Province, and also from the standpoint of Government economy, and other standpoints, to take two or three groups together and place them at a centre of transportation. Also, a number of new people would attend that Institute who had not been



to the former one. This is a general principle that we asked to bring up through the Resolutions Committee this morning and referred to the Inspector of Public Libraries and the Institutes Committee, the persons who are involved in this matter. It is almost impossible to carry out exactly the Institutes we had last year owing to the difficulties of transportation and the restrictions placed upon us by the Legislature in the matter of economy.

I ask now whether you desire to eliminate all the Institutes or group them in the manner that has been suggested.

MR. CASWELL: It seems to me to be a mistake to have small districts and a small attendance.

MR. GRAHAM: It seems to me that the arguments you have advanced in favour of this change are temporary ones, conditions due to the great war, and I think a good many would question whether temporary conditions such as you have outlined should necessitate such a radical change; it will affect a great many libraries. The transportation question will, without doubt, readjust itself, and it is news to many of us that the Government is hard up. Then you are removing them from many of the smaller libraries which are not represented at these larger Institutes.

THE PRESIDENT: How would they not be represented? Their expenses are paid.

MR. GRAHAM: The transportation difficulties will be all the greater.

THE PRESIDENT: All the greater until we make them better.

MR. GRAHAM: My point is this, that since the difficulties of transportation, etc., are purely temporary, it is decidedly unwise to make any radical change in the procedure which has worked well for the past ten years.

MISS BLACK: In connection with making a change of this kind, it would not be like the laws of the Medes and Persians, to continue indefinitely after the local conditions which necessitated the change had passed away; in the meantime it would be a very interesting innovation and experiment. We might find, at the end of one year, that it was a failure, but I am inclined to think that we would very much approve of it. In the case of our Institute which consists of comparatively few libraries, I do not suppose we could enlarge it very much, because our territory is over 100 miles square already. It seems to me that the matter of distance is a mere detail. It is simply a question of convenience, and the people can make the journey; I think the innovation could be easily dropped if necessary.

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, you have heard the arguments put forward in connection with this matter. Now, after all, is it not necessary, if there are temporary conditions facing us, to readjust our plans, and as we are meeting annually we can alter them if necessary and desirable. We are all working for the efficiency of the Institutes and in addition to what has been said, I may mention that we have the whole question of hotel accommodation facing us. We want to carry out this work in such a manner as to make it as attractive as possible to everybody that comes. We don't lay down any definite rules; we only make the suggestion to the people concerned, that this might be a wise step to take.

MR. MCKEOWN: I think the principle involved is an important one. I came from a section of the country where we had an assembly coming from many miles away. I think the larger group is more desirable for the reason that a better expression of opinion is obtained from the larger group than from the smaller one.

MR. MOORE: Would it be satisfactory not to cut the groups down too much, and have it every alternative year?

THE PRESIDENT: We are only legislating for this year.

Resolution approved and referred to the Institutes Committee.

Resolution 7. Carried.

Resolution 8. Carried.

MR. CASWELL: The next two questions are not Library questions, but the Resolutions Committee felt that we should, as a representative body in this Province, take our share in forming public opinion. We feel it is our duty to encourage the Government in the action that many people think they should take, and possibly the Government themselves think they should take. (Applause.)

Resolution 9. Carried.

Resolution 10. Carried.

Resolution 11.

MR. ROBERTSON: I would like the name of Mr. Steele of Orangeville added.

THE PRESIDENT: We will add Mr. Steele's name, and I will ask you all to pass this motion standing. Carried.

MR. CASWELL: I will ask you, Mr. President, to allow me to postpone the twelfth clause until the new business comes up at 11.45 a.m.

Resolution 13. Carried.

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, the report has been adopted in all its clauses except clause 12, which will be considered under "New Business," at 11.45.

I have very much pleasure in requesting Mr. W. O. Carson, Inspector of Public Libraries, to address us.

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## LIBRARIES IN WAR-TIME AND SOME FACTORS THAT REQUIRE CONSIDERATION.

MR. W. O. CARSON, INSPECTOR OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

MR. CARSON: I have no set remarks to offer this morning, but I wish to give expression to a feeling of gratitude toward a large number of members present here for the splendid assistance they afforded me during last year. In presenting my report to the Minister, I expressed my thanks to several people, and when the gentleman who was editing the document saw the list, he enquired, "How many libraries are there in the Province?" And upon my stating that there were 400, he remarked, "Why, someone from every library seems to have done something!"

I have been requested by your President, Mr. Locke, to say something about the knowledge I have gained with regard to the achievements of the libraries as a whole. It has occurred to me from the remarks I have heard here during the last two years, that we should take a more serious view of present conditions. I feel that, in view of the tremendous sacrifices that are being made, and the extraordinary times in which we are living, we really should try to assist people as much as possible in the matter of library service, and that we should be especially interested in what people are thinking about and reading about. I do not think that we, as library workers, have devoted sufficient time and thought to the matter of gaining exact information regarding what people are doing. Last year I heard remarks here that I did not think were just in accordance with the facts concerning reading during war time. Some people assert that reading must decrease during the war, and furnish this reason and that reason without first finding out whether they were dealing with facts. I should like to give you a comparison between the years 1913 and 1916.



The people in the Province of Ontario read 1,500,000 more books in the year 1916 than they did in the last year before the war. We cannot begin to estimate what those books have done, but it is surely undeniable that they have had some effect upon the public mind.

The next question is, what are people reading? Where is the difference? Well, in the subject of sociology alone there is a difference of 125 per cent. in favour of 1916 over 1913.

Philosophy never was read to any great extent, but the increase in that subject is 188 per cent.

Religion ran high, and history increased 79 per cent.

Travel ran very high, and fiction showed merely an average increase.

Now, here is something rather sad to reflect upon: Thirty-eight of the free public libraries showed a decrease in 1916 as compared with 1913. I made a very careful examination into the matter of the financing of these libraries, the book purchasing, and other matters, and discovered it was simply bad management that caused that decrease. Some libraries cut down their hours to one-third of what they were before the war, and their expenditures were also cut down. Thirty-eight showed decreases and twenty-eight show *tremendous* increases, and I think there is an increase of over 30 per cent. on the whole, representing approximately, as I have stated, 1,500,000 more books.

By the way, the Association Libraries (233) did not show an increase on the whole. The Association Libraries in the Province of Ontario have been slipping behind for the last twelve years. That is, I think, deplorable. We are anxious to have all our libraries free to the public and maintained by public taxation. But how can we expect it, if we have examples of that kind throughout the Province. It is nothing but the law of diminishing returns that is at work. Fifteen years ago they carried over their cash balances, and, of course, got lower grants from the Government in the following years, because they had not bought the books. And notwithstanding that their incomes are smaller now than they were fifteen years ago, the cash balances carried over now are over \$10,000. Eighteen little libraries I visited had carried over \$1,400 cash, and they had not bought a book for two years: and some of the trustees did not know that.

The first step should be to get our Association Libraries placed on a better basis, and when they are doing better work they will be in a position to secure a better vote from the people for free library service. I am glad that in the year 1916 they made a slight advance.

What about expenditure? The free libraries alone expended 20 per cent. more in 1916 than in 1913, and 166 free libraries carried over \$127,000 of unexpended cash balances last year. It is apparent, therefore, that, as a whole, the libraries are not "hard up"; they had that much more money than they saw fit to expend. I was unable to go as deeply into the results as I should have liked, but I did investigate every class of literature in the twenty-five largest libraries in the Province, and was shocked to discover that two out of the twenty-five showed large decreases in the patronage of their libraries, but several showed a fair increase, and some of them showed very large increases.

Two libraries went very much behind, and the rest, as a whole, went very much ahead. I think the libraries of this Province should establish themselves and manage their affairs on a more scientific basis. In one place, with a population of 10,000 people, it was found that they were trying to run a library on a few hundred dollars a year. Where there is a population of 10,000 or 15,000 people it costs a certain amount of money to serve that population with library privileges. How

many persons here to-day have attempted to ascertain what that amount is? If you have a circulation of 50,000 books annually you must expend a certain amount of money every year to keep the book collection vitalized. In the insurance business there is what is known as the "Key rate." They have a model building on which they set a rate, and every building is charged a rate according to the comparison that it bears to the model. I think we can arrive at a key rate.

With regard to the factors that contribute to success—and they must be observed—let me refer, first, to the question of the selection of books. I think you would be shocked if you knew the quality of the book-selection, and by men who should know better, and who should select books that are worth while. The book selection is a very important factor in increasing desirable patronage. Our libraries exist for patronage, and want quality as well as quantity. If you find one town with a first-class library and a circulation of 20,000, and another town of the same size with a circulation of 40,000, there is something the matter with the one with the smaller patronage.

Then, how many libraries know how much they should expend on books, and what should be the total expenditure for the year?

The Librarian is a very important factor indeed. Some people say that seventy-five per cent. of the success of a library is due to the librarian; I believe it.

Then there is building and equipment. We sometimes think that does not count, but if you were to take a good library situated in unattractive premises and move it into a good building, you would be startled at the result.

Then there is the question of possible demand and also that of publicity. A rather strange thing is going on in our libraries just now. The people are not receiving a sufficient number of books. You are not spending anything like a sufficient sum of money on books on the average. Your circulation is probably 34,000 or 35,000 and you are trying to increase your patronage by publicity. What is the use of doing so, if you cannot attend to the people who are using your libraries now? You must get some of the other things adjusted first.

Examine your records and find out if you belong to that group (pointing to chart on wall). Those three (pointing) belong to three cities in the Province. The average annual book expenditure was \$19,104, and the circulation is shown here.

(Mr. Carson here explained his remarks by frequent references to the charts heretofore mentioned.)

That may be due to several factors, but I will not say anything about them. I do say, however, that any library catering for a population of 51,000 will have a decrease in patronage if it only spends \$19,104 over the period stated. Moreover, they will go down farther. You might as well try to beat the law of gravitation as to try to ignore the fact that a library requires to be kept adequately vitalized.

Here are three more libraries in the first twenty-five with a population of 51,000—it is a little below that now—the expenditure on books in 1910 as compared with 1916 is shown.

I have discovered that if you have a circulation of 100,000, and spend less than \$1,800 annually on books and bookbinding, you cannot get satisfactory results, and if you spend at that ratio, your library is liable to remain where it is—it may gain a trifle. You must do better than that. You must spend in order to advance.

Look at this (pointing). If anyone wanted excuses for a reduction in circulation, these are the people who could claim the reduction. There are more foreign people in one of these cities who cannot read English than in any other city in the Province of Ontario. Yet the library is enjoying an annual increase of patronage.



I think this is a very important subject, because we all have great regard for the influence of public libraries as such, and it does not matter what high ideals we have, we will never actually carry out the objects of our libraries without observing the factors to which I have had the privilege of drawing your attention.

If I wanted to serve a city of 51,000, with average conditions, average demand and at this time, I could not do it on a cent less than 35 cents per capita, and I would much rather have 40 cents. Thirty-five cents a head is the minimum on which you can carry on a library with a population of more than 2,000. If you have only 20 cents per capita, you can make up your mind you cannot meet requirements. You can try publicity and other means if you will, but you will find the results unsatisfactory, if you do not first provide all of the necessary requirements to meet your problem. There is no use in advertising for patronage until you have everything properly organized and maintained to serve the people.

With regard to the quality of service: We say we want quality as well as quantity. I think they have better books to circulate in this case (pointing). The library in that particular community has a good name, and they receive a good income from the city; probably the Librarian had something to do with all those things. I think that is the most important factor on the whole list.

I do not think we should even contemplate assisting schools or doing other kinds of extension work until we have got our own houses in order. I think we should look after fundamentals first, and subsequently, when everything has been brought up to date, we can take up other matters.

Then there is possible demand. What is possible demand? I could give you a key rate of four books per capita. I think most of our libraries which are giving the best service either have a circulation of four books or more per capita or are attaining that number very swiftly. Our libraries as a whole are still below a reasonable standard. The free libraries of the Province served three books per capita during the year to their people, but in the year 1913 they were circulating only two. I think the great majority of libraries here (pointing) need to learn the lesson that they are not spending sufficient money annually.

In conclusion, I may say I merely wanted to discuss this as a fundamental feature of library work. The libraries should start by considering carefully all the factors which have been brought before your notice this morning, and by expending an adequate amount of money annually in the purchase of books, because books are the instruments with which we work for the public. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure we all appreciate the eminently practical address to which it has been our privilege to listen. Mr. Carson is the man we depend upon to help us and advise us, and I am sure you will all agree with me that we have been exceedingly fortunate in thus receiving the benefits of his long experience in library work.

MISS AHERN: There was one note which Mr. Carson failed to sound, the proportion of people in the community using the library. I consider that a very important factor. We have a library, a piece of bric-a-brac on one corner which looks well, and someone comes along and admires it and decides to build another one, and every species of ingenuity is employed to encourage the public in the reading of books. There is an average of six books to every person in the States, yet in the State of Wisconsin, there are great tracts where no one uses any books.

Nor do I think Mr. Carson should be permitted to lay too great emphasis upon the reading by young people and upon publicity. Publicity and young people are my particular pets, and so I ask him not to hit us too hard.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Carson meant that you cannot invite people to come to your library to enjoy something you have not got.

MR. CARSON: As far as the figures on the charts are concerned, they were made from actual records in libraries which kept good records, and as far as the number of borrowers in various places is concerned, I could not obtain accurate records.

THE PRESIDENT: I have very much pleasure in requesting Miss Josephine McCally, of the Public Library, St. Thomas, to read a paper on "What I gained from my attendance at the Provincial Library Training School of 1916."

MISS MCCALLY: Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Locke has given me my text and limited me to fifteen minutes—just fancy limiting a woman to anything!

Miss McCally then read paper.

## MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE LIBRARY SCHOOL AND WHAT I GAINED FROM IT.

MISS E. JOSEPHINE MCCALLY, THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ST. THOMAS.

Carlyle has complained often and bitterly that the modern age has lost the faculty of wonder; that by *not* thinking the world has become "a kitchen and a cattle stall," rather than an oracle and a temple. If one stops and thinks, is not the present atmosphere of books, which we breathe in as naturally as the air around us, one of the wonders of our modern civilization?

If it is true that in this era of mechanical invention, "Every time a river is enslaved a thousand men are set free; every time an iron wheel is mastered a thousand muscles are emancipated," is it not equally true that thought kindles at the fire of thought, spirit lives by mysterious contact with spirit, and that each printed thought, each great book, sets free unknown spiritual forces?

There is a strange legend in the old Norse mythology of the tree *Igdrasil*. Its roots, stretching down to the kingdom of the dead, are watered from the sacred springs by the Past, the Present, and the Future. Its boughs with their buddings and disleafings are events, things suffered, things done, catastrophes, and they stretch through all lands and times. The rustling of the leaves is the breath of human passion. Myths may have many meanings, and one is prone to find in this story of the tree *Igdrasil* a beautiful symbol of world literature.

It is a law of the universe that every spirit must express itself through somebody, every force through some machine. One body or machine of our great literature, through which it aims to reach out to touch myriad lives, is our great library system. One wonders sometimes what old William Caxton would have thought if, as he sat in the almonry of Westminster printing labouriously the pages of "Some joyous or pleasant history of chivalry," or the works of "Ye worshipful man Geoffrey Chaucer," if he could have for a moment glimpsed the forces he had set loose with the first printed page, could for a moment have foreseen one of our great modern libraries, and glimpsed its elaborate and intricate system.

To give librarians and would-be librarians an idea of this wonderful system: to train them in a working knowledge of its intricate details; to cultivate in them skill and tact in reaching and helping the throng who come for pastime, for forgetfulness, for instruction, for intellectual and spiritual stimulus, to the shelves of the Public Library; moreover, to guide the seeking throng from the "company



of the kitchen maids and stable boys of literature to converse with the kings and queens of all time"—such was the work undertaken in a few short weeks by the Library School.

One of my friends said to me before leaving home, "Why, however will you be able to spend a month in studying Library work?" If she could have seen our time-table as it was gradually unfolded before our eyes, the only wonder would have been, how five short weeks were to see the accomplishment of the work assigned. The fact that I was in Toronto four weeks before I ever entered Eaton's store speaks eloquently of our industry and application.

To come now to the details of the work which filled each day of those busy and interesting five weeks. The Library School opened on September 11th, with an attendance of thirty-one women. Men were conspicuous by their absence. Library work is evidently virgin soil, on which few men dare to tread. It was a beautiful September morning, and we all gathered in the lecture-room, full of high hopes, like patients in a doctor's waiting-room, beset with a consciousness of many weaknesses, yet eager to be cured of all our faults and sent home as good advertisements of what a Library School can accomplish.

The two subjects given chief attention were Cataloguing and Classification, twelve lectures in each being delivered by Miss Barnstead and Miss Boyle, respectively. And may I just here in a few words voice the appreciation which was felt by the whole class for the untiring energy displayed and the unsparing efforts which were made on our behalf by all the lecturers, but especially by Miss Barnstead. She bore, as it were, the brunt of the battle, and carried us through all the dark days of discouragement and despair with a spirit and courage which I am sure was worthy of a D.S.O.

The teaching of Cataloguing was carried out in a very thorough manner, a lecture being given in the morning, followed by practice work in the afternoon. In this we were given the books themselves to catalogue, in exactly the same manner in which we would be expected to do the work in a Library. The cards were handed in, corrected, and returned to us, and those were usually our most unhappy moments.

This same method was carried out in the Classification, and I am sure there were none of us but understood better the meaning underlying the Dewey system of classification after the lucid explanations given by Miss Boyle.

The remainder of the course covered lectures on Accessioning, Library Routine, Children's Work, Elementary Bibliography, Shelf Listing, Secretarial Work, Filing Cards, and Book Selection.

The five most comprehensive lectures on Reference work were given by Miss Baxter, of London. The duties of a Reference Librarian were emphasized in these.

1. That she keep a watchful supervision over the number of people, the class of people who use the Reference Room, and the information required by each.

2. To make bibliographies on subjects which are in constant demand, such as Christmas, Woman's Suffrage, and Women's work in the war. This saves looking up material over and over again, enables you to give better service, to know what material you have in the Library, and what is required.

3. The care and keeping of government reports and documents. The importance and value of the material in these was clearly shown, and a most efficient plan for handling them was explained to us.

Lists of the most important reference books were given, which should prove most useful for smaller libraries in building up their Reference Rooms.

We were privileged with hearing two special lectures on book selection by Mr. Sykes, of the Ottawa Public Library, and I am sure none of us who listened to him will ever be guilty of having a box of books left at our Library door labelled "On Approval."

In coming to the second part of my paper, "What I Gained from the Library Training School," it is well to consider what is required of an Assistant Librarian in a Library such as ours. My special department of the work is confined to the Accessioning, Classifying, Cataloguing, and Shelf-listing of the books. To this is added the general work of assisting at the desk, mending and cleaning books and preparing lists, either for advertising purposes, replacements, or new books required.

I wish to give my meed of appreciation, very hearty, and very sincere, to the splendid way in which the training at the Library School met the needs of the work to which I am specially called.

Cataloguing is indeed no easy task and special training is absolutely necessary if a person is to become efficient. It is just as necessary for a cataloguer to attain a certain standard of proficiency in her work as for a school teacher, a clergyman, or a mechanic, and a Library Training School is what makes it possible to standardize the work done in smaller libraries.

Besides gaining a wider grasp of the subject in its entirety, I gained in accuracy and attention to detail. With rare disinterestedness and patience our work was corrected and revised until we had made it perfect in form and construction. And now the catalogue, in miniature, which we each built up, and which contains examples of every problem we may have to face, is an invaluable reference which I use constantly. This, with the notes given us, which were very full, has made the work, to me, much more comprehensible and satisfactory.

In Classification many difficulties were smoothed away, and many obscure points made plain. It was shown that the Dewey system is preferable to Cutters, because Dewey has worked out his system in more detail, has a splendid index, and allows of indefinite expansion. Each division of Dewey's classification was taken up separately, and many marginal notes given to make the meaning more clear.

A schedule for the classification of the war books, such as is being used in the Toronto libraries, was given to us, and I have reclassified our books according to that.

Above and beyond the practical value of such a course, however, is the interest and enthusiasm gained. It was an inspiration in itself to come in contact with so many others interested in the same work. I think all of us have felt at some time that, as the days go by, bringing the same round of duties to be performed, our enthusiasm often becomes choked with the dust of monotony. It is hard to bring each day the same zeal, the same energy and alertness to our occupation. And after all it is the spirit in which we do our work, the manner in which we get through our days, which counts. St. Hermas says, "Have a lust for thine own work and thou shalt be safe," and Emerson tells us, "The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it." Thus the moral value of such a training, enabling us, as it does, to bring a new motive to the ordinary duties and common tasks of our daily occupation, is untold.

I sincerely hope that the Library School will be continued. (Loud and continued applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: I have very much pleasure in requesting Miss Muriel Page of the Public Library, Hamilton, to read a paper on the same subject.



MISS PAGE: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: When I heard that Miss McCally was to take up the other side of this very interesting subject, I wrote to her to find out just what she was going to do, and she replied that she would give the facts. You will not, therefore, expect any facts from me. (Laughter.)

Miss Page then read paper. (Applause.)

## WHAT I GAINED FROM MY ATTENDANCE AT THE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY SCHOOL, 1916.

MISS MURIEL PAGE, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, HAMILTON.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.—To try to tell you what I gained by my attendance at the Library School last autumn is indeed a hard task, and I really don't quite know where to begin. Perhaps you will imagine yourselves for a moment in my place before I went to the school. You have done about six months supplying in a large up-to-date Library. You know very little of this, and enough of that, to quite muddle you. I shall never forget my first introduction to the Fiction Shelves. I found that I needed to go straight home to learn my alphabet. I thought I had mastered that long ago. You have learnt to regard your friends and acquaintances as "The Public," a nebulous body to be kept quiet, smiled upon, and assisted to the best of your ability. You have wandered in the labyrinth of Dewey, finding yourself more closely surrounded by sub. and sub-sub. classes at every turn. You have spent hours with paste and brush instilling new life—albeit a sticky one—into books grown weary of public usage. You have spent time in the Reference Department, again and again. I shall never forget my first questioner, a very learned lady of the beak-nosed, spectacled species who asked a learned question of some other awe-inspiring class—what must she have thought as I fearfully directed her to the encyclopaedia whilst I engaged the assistance of a more learned librarian. You also knew how to use the Dictionary Catalogue, but you have had a due respect for the makers thereof. What a master-head must have been responsible for that ever-growing family of card children. You have reached the stage when you do much of the desk work mechanically, but you began to wonder about the why of things. Of the Children's work you have known nothing, but you have looked with something like envy upon those considered wise enough to spend their days in our lovely bright Children's Room with children who are just as dear here as they are the world over.

You now have some idea perhaps of the puzzled state of my mind when autumn, 1916, arrived. Will you still imagine yourselves in my place, and go, as I did, to school where all your why's will be answered and everything generally straightened out.

You are back at school again in a big room lined with books on pretty, stained shelves. There are ferns above them, and a lovely bowl of flowers on the teacher's desk (familiar term). At the end of the school-room is a large open hearth where, by and by, as it gets colder, a great fire is lit. Indeed, the setting is all that can be desired. Gradually the room fills with scholars—not the girls in gingham and plaits that you used to go to school with—but ladies of all sizes and ages, and all seem so wise, you begin to feel smaller and smaller and more and more ignorant. However, after all the registering is done, and time-tables copied, and you have

found your desk—desks are arranged alphabetically by title, I mean by surname, and for once you find your desk is not in the middle of the front row, as it always used to be, but with the other P's nearly at the back. After all these preliminaries are over, the lessons start and the straightening out process begins. The first few lessons are almost quite comprehensible. For instance, Miss Boyle has obtained permission to take us on a world-wide tour. We are to visit different main countries, paying special attention to certain cities, towns, and villages. First we are to visit a land called History. There we are to spend some time in the country of Travels, visiting Historical, Maps, Antiquities, and other interesting towns and so forth. After all, the Dewey Decimal System is not going to be such a labyrinth in future. Hope shines ahead. When Miss Barnstead tells us that a catalogue should be systematic, accurate, and simple we smile knowingly. We had always thought the same ourselves. Cataloguing is going to be quite simple, after all. So one subject after another is started. Hardly any time passes, however, before a rather bewildered look creeps over the wise faces of the other students. They, too, begin to feel overwhelmed. As we get deeper into the work it gets more and more intricate. We really are not used to going so fast. We find there is so much to be learnt, so much to be done, and, oh! so little time for it all. How are we ever going to learn all this and do all that? Oh, that all those dear people who tell you that all you have to do to be a Librarian is to sit at a desk giving out and taking in books, and to put them in place on the shelves—Oh, that they could have sat in the front row and found out their great mistake!

First we wake in the morning probably repeating our cataloguing rules for subject cards. We make a hurried toilet, wondering how Mr. Carson looked when he corrected our bibliography paper. At breakfast, if we are fortunate enough all to be down together, we discuss the reference work, after which we race to see who can get to school first, where we can write in our copy-books, earnestly trying to coax our slanting, pointed letters into an upright rotundity. Then in come the teachers, and after a few moments' friendly chatter, work is begun afresh, and we go still deeper into the mine of perfect librarianship—all going together, each examining her own particular corner—plaguing the poor guides with question after question. Sometimes, at a sudden turn, all seems perfect darkness, but, as our eyes get used to it, we see a dim light ahead, which gets stronger all the while, and we feel that we are not lost yet, and look forward with pleasure to exploring this new cavern.

Then there are the evenings you are to spend at the branches. Such jolly evenings they prove, as well as being very useful. Every one is so nice, and then there are many new ideas for those that want them.

Now I am going to leave you to go where you will with those thirty odd students. You may go with them to the Reference Library and look up points on the life of Whitcomb Riley, or on Prison Reform, or on Thanksgiving Day—or you may inspect the cataloguing and classification departments, and benefit by their wonderful method and system—or you may visit the bindery, and get hints on mending, but I believe there are still some who will want to come with me on Saturday afternoon and find out what I gained from my attendance at the school.

I gained a vision, only dimly seen at first, but which became brighter all the while. It was of a children's room—of many children's rooms, bright and sunny, gay with books and flowers and filled with children. As they read and listened to the stories told, I read their thoughts rising above the every-day sameness of their lives, to fair places, castles in fairyland, where they dance in the fairy rings, and



flutter their gossamer wings as they float in the air. Others journey to distant lands, where they enter into the lives of other children, so different from their own. Some thoughts went back to the grand old days—the reader is a knight in armour ridding the world of evil by many a brave and courteous deed. Then their reading ended and they went back to their homes, but there was not the old sameness any more. Life was more worth while and their outlook was broader. Some found ambition and determined to become great, even as Nelson and Jean D'Arc were great. Others, satisfied with the smaller things, resolved to brighten the lives around them, as an Esther Summerson or a Pollyanna would. And it was not only a vision I gained, but, as Miss Smith told us of her work amongst the children, I found that my vision was not a castle in Spain, but a solid substantiality here in Canada, that these things were being carried on all the while. I had thought before that work with the children was one I should like, but now I knew that there was no other work that I could do but with the children, so now those of you who have come with me, let us visit the bright rooms and talk with the children. We cannot help noticing the absolute faith they have in their Library Teachers. What a calamity it would be to break such faith—how careful the “Teacher” must be, and how much she has to learn.

It is with a new zest that we listen to the lectures on Children's work—such splendid lectures, so full of inspiration. What a lot can be done for children through earnest librarians—how we can do it—what books we can read—what stories we can tell, and how we should tell them. And so we find our little place in the world, and we resolve to fill it to the best of our ability. We have only begun to learn the many things that a Children's Librarian should know, and I for one shall never learn all.

Our imaginary visit to the school has drawn to a close. Once again, ladies and gentlemen, you may resume your wise librarian selves, but if you could—some of you—visit a Library School in reality, and become a scholar again, I feel sure that your already great wisdom would become greater, and if any of you knew as little as I knew I feel sure that you will gain a vision, and also the means to make your vision live.

**THE PRESIDENT:** It also affords me very great delight to call upon Miss B. Mabel Dunham, B.A., Librarian of the Public Library at Kitchener, Ontario, to read a paper on: “What is the place and use of newspapers and periodicals in our public libraries in towns?”

Miss Dunham read paper. (Applause.)

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## WHAT IS THE PLACE AND USE OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS IN OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN TOWNS?

MISS B. MABEL DUNHAM, LIBRARIAN, PUBLIC LIBRARY, KITCHENER.

The old Librarian was at a convention. Every year his Board sent him there and paid his expenses too, provided they did not exceed the amount set aside in the estimates for that purpose.

Now the old Librarian was very grateful to his Board for this annual excursion, and took home marvellously eulogistic reports of the said convention. These were published in the local press, and everybody said that they didn't begrudge the old

Librarian such a pleasant outing, even if it did have to come out of the taxes. So once a year the old Librarian packed his bag and set out jubilantly to attend the great love feast of bibliomaniacs in the city of brains and culture.

Now each year the old Librarian became older and grayer and deafer and less conspicuous on the programme and less mentioned in the minutes. Younger and more aggressive Librarians seconded the motions he used to second; more verbose and vastly illuminating papers were written on the subjects he delighted to discuss. He had become a bit antiquated; he could not keep abreast with the great advance in library economy; he did not hold a librarian's certificate; but he did enjoy these annual conventions. He always chose a comfortable chair, and surrounded himself by a group of serious-minded people who are not prone to make irrelevant remarks on all occasions. Then, if the papers were long and past his comprehension, he would close his eyes and let his mind wander at random until warned by a sudden outburst of applause or by some other distraction. The next morning he bought a *Mail and Empire* and cribbed his report, and his Board invariably complimented him on his comprehensive account of the convention.

One day when he felt it his duty and privilege to listen to some very interesting essays on some very vital library topics, the old Librarian found that his mind persisted in wandering off to subjects of its own suggestion. It seemed as if he were back in his own little, unpretentious library. All was dark, but here and there a ray of light from the street shone in through the windows, dissipating the gloom into something like the softened glow of twilight. Nor was it altogether quiet, for strange figures stirred about and spoke in subdued library whispers. The magazines and newspapers were holding a convention in the reading-room!

They behaved quite as well as human beings generally do at their conferences. The spirit of the meeting was thoroughly democratic, but there was a tendency for certain congenial magazines to get together. Those in the bald-headed row moved, seconded, and carried unanimously most of the motions, while those in the rear, with all the enthusiasm of youth, contributed unstintingly to the applause. It was very noticeable that the more prominent a position a magazine held in periodical literature, the closer he sat to the front and the more persistently he scowled in the direction of the back seats. The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature fully occupied the chair, and conducted the business with his usual dignified despatch.

The technical magazines were there, though they said that scientific discoveries and inventions of all kinds were crowding in so fast that they could hardly spare the time. The religious publications sat aloof in one corner with an injured air. They said they never felt on quite an equal footing with the other magazines, because the librarian had discriminated against them in refusing to pay for their services. Very near the front sat a number of women's magazines, as if anxious to acquaint themselves with the mysterious law of parliamentary procedure in these dawning days of equal suffrage, while further back sat their sisters clicking their knitting-needles and their tongues in a most disgusting way. The mirth-provoking, humorous magazines were there looking weary. They had had a hard day, they said, for not another magazine in the place was worked as continuously as they. The sport magazines looked immeasurably bored, and the children's magazines were asleep. Scattered here and there in little groups all over the room were the general magazines, while the reviews flitted about from group to group like chattering magpies. Nothing but parasites, *Life* said they were, begging, borrowing and stealing from their contemporaries.



Then there were the newspapers sitting around a table near the front. Inferior as they knew themselves to be in the scale of periodical literature, they seemed determined to emphasize that inferiority. They had a little song with which they entertained the convention during dull numbers on the programme. It ran something like this:

The News—there scarcely is a word, I'll venture here to say,  
That o'er men's thoughts and fancies holds more universal sway.  
The old, the young, the grave, the gay, the wealthy and the poor,  
All wish on each succeeding day to hear it o'er and o'er,  
Though on each day 'tis always changed from what it was before.

"A heavy plea for light readers" was the subject of a paper read by the *Saturday Evening Post*. He claimed that there was no excuse for leading unsuspecting readers into mental labyrinths and then leaving them to extricate themselves as they would. People allow their brains to be used free of charge, and care should be taken not to store them beyond their capacity.

The question of the serial story was raised in the discussion on this paper. *The Atlantic Monthly* wanted to know why the magazines could not preserve their own individuality without continually trying to ape books. The serial story was nothing but a medium of advertisement for those overlords, the books. Few people ever read the serial story because they could not wait the suspense of waiting month after month for the dénouement. Every good reader wants to make a feast of a good story, not to take it in piece-meal fashion. Personally he had no objection to people devouring long stories in whatever form they pleased, but he, for one, refused to do the catering. The only excuse for a serial story in a magazine was to give their readers an opportunity to judge whether or not they wanted to read it in book form, and in his opinion the excuse was not sufficient to warrant the use.

*The English Review of Reviews* agreed with him. He contended that up-to-date people, on account of time-consuming and mind-engaging distractions, and, of course, the war—for many reasons people do not read books but buy magazines regularly. They must know about current events to give animation to their conversation, and the magazine that brings to their attention the greatest number of points of interest is the favourite. Indeed, he believed that the day was not far distant when all stories and jokes and other frivolities would be entirely eliminated from periodical literature, and the world would settle down to taking their news like their medicine, periodically and in tabloid form.

There was a stir among the newspapers, and the *Globe* rose to vindicate the daily press. "News," he said, "is a food that men's minds require every morning as regularly as their bodies require breakfast. The world would perish intellectually if it had to depend only on what the periodicals dole out from month to month. As to serial stories, I do not feel the need of them myself, but I am told that many of my confrères living in small towns like Hamilton do use them to great advantage. There is, however, this notable difference between the serial of a newspaper and that of a magazine. The magazine runs the serial before it appears in book form, the newspaper after. I do not believe that magazines are being made a medium of advertising for books. Judging from the number of people who read stories for the first time in the less important newspapers, both books and magazines are enjoying a reputation which they do not live up to."

*Harper's Monthly* said that in his opinion serials must continue if the educational intent is emphasized as the main thing in the scheme of the magazine or if

practical education is aimed at with methodical persistence. Essays on literature, science and art are often published serially to great advantage. The serial began in the first place by a desire to hold readers by a continuity of interest.

"That's why most magazines publish them to-day," interrupted *Public Opinion*. "Did you ever notice how many magazines start a new serial with the December number?"

*Harper's Monthly* cast a withering glance in the direction of the rude disturber and went on to say that the serial was first used to give unity to a magazine. There was always a great danger that magazines might develop into a mere miscellany, without some rope of interest to bind their numbers together. "By all means," he said, "let us have serials. I warn you not to look on them so contemptuously, for what are we magazines ourselves but a series relating the advance of the world from month to month and illustrating contemporary life? And what is life itself but a tale of progress, a serial story of civilization?"

Another interesting item on the programme was a paper by the *American Magazine* on "The Relation of Advertising to Literature." He said that, if, a magazine did not pay more attention to advertising, the first thing they knew there wouldn't be as many pages of advertising as there are of literature. Then the people would stop reading the magazines. A man doesn't want to dodge around through almost impenetrable poems and reform articles to find a pair of suspenders or a shaving soap. He hoped the time would soon come when some publisher would be bold enough to publish a magazine devoted entirely to advertising. He was reminded of a poem from which he had often quoted. It was about a poet who sat under a tree with a book, a jug of wine and thou —. That was all he wanted, he said. But to-day that poet, if he leaned that way and was fortunate enough to live in a wet state, might own a forest and sit with a hogshhead of the best sherry wine, the Encyclopaedia Britannica on India paper, and a whole chorus of thou's. What made the difference? Advertising. Then there was another poet, Shakespeare by name, who got nothing out of his poems because he didn't have sense enough to print an advertisement for hoop skirts on the back of them. He deserved to die a poor man. Soap with your fiction, breakfast food with your literature, and automobiles with your social studies.

"Variety's the very spice of life  
That gives to all its flavour."

The *London Illustrated News* said he was a firm believer in front-cover advertising. A lot of valuable advertising material was wasted by unwise placing. He knew a capital story that might have some bearing on the subject. A certain magazine failed to appear regularly, and the editor said it was because the subscribers didn't send in their cheques. In desperation he printed a list of the paid-up subscribers. There were ten. But ten righteous men could not save a magazine, no matter what influence they might have had in Sodom and Gomorrah. The editor could not get any one to advertise to ten readers, and the magazine died a natural death.

*Life* nudged *Punch* and said he might have that one, as it was obviously an English joke. Any fool American, he said, would have had sense enough to pad his subscription list.

Then up rose *Blackwood's Magazine*. "A hundred years is quite a phenomenal age in the life of a magazine," he said, "but I am approaching my third centennial and my circulation is still good. Oh, yes, I know the *Readers' Guide* thinks I am



in my dotage and too old-countrified, and has cut me off his list, but, in spite of that, I am still going strong. I wish to give this testimony that I attribute my long life to a total abstinence from alcoholic liquors and narcotics, and my popularity to a long list of libel suits successfully eluded. I got myself talked of and laughed about and sworn at when I was very young and I have been upsetting things from time to time ever since. I have not yet felt the necessity of advertising either a patented dish-washer or a talcum powder. I believe in self-advertising. I recall an old adage which says, "He that tooteth not his own horn, his horn shall not be tooted."

Meanwhile *Judge* had been composing an original little poem which he passed round among his friends:

When one is just deciding  
To buy a fountain pen,  
And in the ads. one's seeking,  
For "Not a blot non-leaking,"  
Who wants to be colliding  
With "Wives of famous men,"  
When one is just deciding  
To buy a fountain pen?

*Good Housekeeping* said she didn't suppose a woman's opinion would have much weight—yet—but she wanted to enter a protest against the methods employed by certain magazines she might be persuaded to name, if only she had a rolling-pin handy—magazines that preach pure food, public service and honest merchandise in their editorials, but boost poisoned foods and fraudulent medicines in their advertising sections. She shook her fist defiantly at *Collier's Weekly*.

"Hear! Hear!" cried the *Missionary Review of the World*, "and against those that pretend to be religious and sell advertising space for tonics and speculative ventures in land, oil-wells and mines, none of which could secure space in a reputable secular paper." He looked hard at the religious and semi-religious magazines, but each of them was so busy looking at his neighbours that not one of them was noticed.

The next speaker, the *London Times*, was well known as a fluent, versatile and comparatively veracious man of letters, and his subject was a timely one. "Keeping People Abreast of the Times."

"Some more horn-tooting!" ejaculated *Punch*.

But the *Times* hastened to remark that he did not intend to speak of himself. His object was simply to show the conditions under which a subject may become a timely one for publication. A timely man's portrait comes out, he said, as unexpectedly and as multitudinously as measles, until one would suppose it was as catching as a contagious disease. When a person of note dies, writers who have their fingers on the editorial pulse flock to the librarians that they may improve the golden moments by recounting every detail of his life, death, burial and resurrection. A man may have passed his declining years in the utmost obscurity, but he becomes timely when he dies. When, he has been dead a hundred years, he becomes timely again, but isn't even mentioned when he is ninety. He must wait his turn until his centennial comes round. No matter what new light is shed over the life history of any man, it would be unprofessional, to say the least, for any magazine to publish it during the time his memory is lying dormant. It is rather cheerless to reflect that, by consulting a history or a biographical dictionary, one may foresee a certain part of one's magazine reading for several years. Nothing

short of a scandal, or perhaps an accident, will make a man a timely subject for a few days during his life and save him from the usual post-mortem reputation. It was a case of a striking exception to Mark Antony's complaint that—

“The evil that men do lives after them,  
The good is oft interred with their bones.”

*Studio* said he was always pleased to see the magazines clothed in artistic covers. He wondered if it would not be a good idea to take up a collection to buy a new suit once in a while for some of the high-salaried reviews. The women's magazines, he had noted, appeared in a new garb every month. They, at least, believed in keeping abreast of the times.

There was a bobbing to and fro of Easter bonnets and gurgles of delight.

“If anything, a little ahead of time,” said the *Delineator* coyly. “I'm always out by the tenth of the preceding month. But, then, everybody follows the fashions.” That closed the discussion, for the *Delineator* always has the last word.

A round-table conference on the relative value of books, periodicals and newspapers as a means of educating the people created some excitement and stirred up no little animosity. All agreed that the public must be educated, except, of course, a few people who live in Toronto and are educated, but there was a difference of opinion as to the best means of reaching the masses. One said he was willing to acknowledge the superiority of books as mind feeders. The reading of books required sustained and concentrated attention. He told of a clever man of the past generation who would read nothing written later than Queen Anne, because, he said, there was enough good written before that time, and, if anything important has happened since, somebody would be sure to tell him. He believed it would be a better world if people read less of modern conditions and more of Plato's “Republic.” It is all very well to know all about birds and insects and stars, but these things could never be a substitute for the idealism of Carlyle, for the categorical imperative of Kant, or for the study of the humanities. What readers need more than anything else is a revival of interest in the great poetry. Journalism has enormously increased the number of readers, but it has also undermined, and is still undermining, the power to read. The practice of reading newspapers and magazines has developed a special mental habit, a power of skimming, and this habit, once formed, is applied to all reading. The would-be, up-to-date reader finds magazines and reviews more alive than formal literature. What really happens is that the magazine habit is filching from the reader the power of recognizing literary vitality when he sees it.

“But,” interrupted another, “the reading of books alone makes people nothing but educated ignoramuses. Before the magazines came and taught people how to read, books could be read and enjoyed by a few, and the immortal authors whose books were read shone forever in the literary heavens, remote and unassailable. The magazine is a constant educator, dealing with every question of interest in its best form. Here scientists abandon the dog-Latin vocabulary of their crafts. It is the forum of the politician and the source of much literary entertainment.”

“Periodical literature has a noble history. Many of the world's greatest authors wrote at some time of their literary careers for the magazines. In the early days before printing, literature was periodical and was acted at regularly recurrent festivals by itinerant players.”

“As to newspapers, they are positively pernicious. Thackeray once said, ‘It's little good comes out of writing for newspapers.’ Yes, and even to have any-



thing to do with them is to play into Satan's hands and risk demoralization, moral, spiritual and intellectual. They drop vice into our breakfast porridge, perjury into our dinner coffee. They vie with each other to see who can write the most startling story of crime. The newspaper is too transient to do any effective educational work among its readers. It is often hurriedly read and, alas, too often hurriedly written and much too cursory in its treatment of things to be an influence. It reaches only a local circumscribed area, and one in a hundred reads an editorial. Many newspapers will print what no decent man will sign his name to. Every barrier is removed against looseness of statement and unverified information, so a pecuniary premium is put upon unreliability and insinuation. Sensational headlines sell extras and spicy rumor gives the society page its vogue. The newspaper business is nothing more or less than the buying of white paper and the selling of it soiled at a profit. The more words to the idea, the worse the literature and the greater the editor's dividends. To forbid the publication of newspapers would lead ultimately to the closing of prisons and madhouses and be the saving of much inkshed."

There were signs of a great agitation among the scribblers. One of their number rose calmly and deliberately. He said he was at a loss to understand why so much contention had been stirred up. They were all surely taking themselves far too seriously. It was not for them to say what form of literary expression men should use. All literature was nothing but a mirror of the times and an indication of the progress or retrogression of the human race. But, in justification of the daily press, he felt constrained to say that the newspaper is the greatest force in the world to-day. Like little drops of water falling incessantly upon the adamant brain of man, it has made a deeper and more lasting impression than any spasmodic and ephemeral deluge of books or magazines.

The *Readers' Guide* said that for some time the magazines had been reflecting what he was loath to call a decadent age. The last speaker had confirmed his suspicions. He needed only to mention a few of the subjects he had indexed from leading reliable magazines in recent years:

People who have eaten books.  
Can we keep sober?  
Conscience at the custom house.  
Spanked through Europe.  
Machine that smokes cigars.  
Do women enjoy each other?  
New methods in treating red noses.  
Honesty in the ministry.

Ten articles are written now on automobiles to one on the once popular theme of predestination. Esperanto and f-o-n-e-t-i-c r-e-f-a-w-r-m have taken the place of classics and moral reform. He would let his audience draw their own conclusions.

The *Canadian Magazine* said he wanted it to be distinctly understood that he was responsible for none of the articles mentioned. He enjoyed the proud distinction of being the only Canadian magazine recognized by the *Readers' Guide*, and his articles were always marked by that dignity and reserve which characterizes the Canadian people.

"Oh," said the *Outlook*, "even the *Canadian Magazine* isn't above running a story now and again with a gasp in it."

The *University Magazine* rose with great deliberation and said that he would like to know why only one Canadian magazine was indexed in the *Readers' Guide*.

He could mention a few other Canadian publications that might have a more salutary effect upon the American people. He had noted, too, in a recent number of the *Ontario Library Review* a list of ten Canadian, twenty British, and twenty American publications, exclusive of newspapers, of course, that seventeen of the most reputable librarians of the province had compositely listed as the most desirable for a Canadian library. He had noticed several serious omissions, among others, himself, but he wanted to say that on the whole he thought the judgment of the seventeen librarians about as good as could be expected of them. He was afraid the American magazines were displacing Canadian and British in Ontario libraries. He knew that in Kitchener—

At the mention of that name, the newspapers who, for some reason, had been nodding perceptibly, started up, grasped their pencils and began the fore-arm motion in anticipation of news of a riot or, at least, the dismissal of some official. But the news was only library "dope," and, as such, of course, quite disappointing.

"Yes," said the *University Magazine*, "I have it on the best of authority that the Kitchener Library subscribes to more American magazines than British and Canadian combined."

This tragic announcement evoked expressions of surprise and disapproval. The further intimation that this sad state of affairs prevailed in many Canadian libraries provoked much heated discussion.

"It's all the *Readers' Guide's* fault," said one.

"And yet you must have the *Readers' Guide* to be up-to-date," said another.

"Yes," added a third, "and then you must buy American magazines in order to get your money's worth out of the *Readers' Guide*. It indexes only one Canadian and three British magazines."

At this juncture all the Canadian magazines jumped to their feet. They drew up, moved and seconded a motion that somebody or another publish a Canadian *Readers' Guide*, that in it all the Canadian magazines, most of the British and one solitary American magazine be indexed and that the expense in connection with its publication be met by a tax apportioned as follows:

Librarians using the index habitually or oftener pay so much.

Those using it only, say, twice a week, pay so much more.

Those not using it at all pay the balance.

The motion was carried without a dissenting voice, all the magazines recognizing the seriousness of the question and exercising their franchise.

Then the *Readers' Guide* stood up, and this is what he said: "When I took this chair, I inflicted no chairman's speech upon you, but I claim the right to say a few words now in my own defence. After sixteen years of friendly co-operation with Canadian librarians, I am to be ousted by a rival. Sixteen years and more, and never a day of it but I found snatches of poetry to punctuate dull essays, lent whole paragraphs to give points to pointless debates, suggested stories for after-dinner speeches, and gave brilliant ideas to furnish empty brains. Yet never in all that time have I found any measure of appreciation of myself or of the magazines I indexed. An ungrateful lot I have found these Canadians, reaping where they have not sowed and gathering where they have not strawed. Few, if any, confess to having consulted me. Once I went to a great deal of trouble to find material for a Canadian librarian who had to write a paper on something she didn't know anything at all about. She stole her whole dissertation from my magazines and passed it off as her own."



The *Reader's Guide* did not stop, but that was all the old Librarian heard, for suddenly he was startled by a shrill female voice haranguing an unusually intelligent and cultured audience on "The place and use of newspapers and periodicals in our public libraries in towns. The old Librarian listened awhile, then leaned over to his neighbour and whispered: "That's not one bit original. I heard every other sentence of that paper when I was attending a convention of magazines and newspapers a little while ago."

And yet some people say that periodical literature has no place and use in public libraries in towns!

THE PRESIDENT: I may remark that there is one newspaper in this town which runs a serial by May Agnes Fleming. (Laughter.)

I have much pleasure in calling upon Miss A. M. Harris, the Librarian of the Public Library at Guelph, Ontario, to read a paper on the same subject.

Miss Harris read paper. (Applause.)

## PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS IN THE GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

MISS A. HARRIS, GUELPH, LIBRARIAN.

Perhaps the selection of newspapers and periodicals for a public library is almost as important as the selection of books.

The first consideration should be to furnish interesting and profitable entertainment for those who come.

We question if it is necessary that reading should always be instructive. People sometimes need amusement, and they look to the library as a place where they may go to forget the grind of every-day life.

To ascertain what the public want, in addition to what is already provided, the Guelph Library keeps a record of all newspapers and magazines inquired for, and the number of times they have been wanted, during the year. Then when ordering for the coming year, we consult this list, and as many of these as are thought necessary are added, or they may replace the periodicals that have been found unsatisfactory, and have therefore been discontinued.

When our book committee met and looked over the list of magazines suggested for purchase this year, on the suggestion of one of the members, the *Missionary Review of the World* was dropped. His objection was that it was not used enough to warrant its purchase. During the next week so persistent and frequent were the requests for the magazine that it was replaced on the list.

In 1916 the Guelph Library spent \$258 for periodicals and newspapers and \$761 for books.

This year we are subscribing for 10 Canadian, 24 British and 33 American periodicals, and 18 newspapers, among which are 14 technical, 3 sport, 2 religious, 4 review, 7 woman's, and 9 juvenile magazines. The Guelph Library has also subscribed for the Wilson periodicals since 1906.

Everyone will read a newspaper. It has been said, "The newspaper is primarily a collector and a distributor of news, a vehicle for the satisfaction of human wants." The Guelph Library has a number of early patrons, each wanting his favourite paper first, and these never fail to await the arrival of the early news.

Needless to say, the local papers are always in demand. These we keep on file from year to year, as back numbers are often asked for.

We find it convenient to divide these into quarterly volumes, covering each volume with heavy brown paper, on the outside of which, date, and sometimes a special event, is mentioned.

The Toronto *Saturday Night* and the New York *Times*, especially the Sunday edition, is very popular in the Library. Both contain many reliable and well-written articles on current events, which may be used for reference purposes. Clippings from these papers are indexed, and we notice are appreciated by those preparing papers or taking part in debates.

A variety of magazines must be provided for a library which is patronized by all classes of people. Our aim is to satisfy the public, and at the same time to encourage and stimulate a taste for the best reading.

Many of the fifteen-cent magazines are most popular with our people. Though these are low-priced, it does not necessarily follow that they are deficient in value. *MacLean's* we have noticed to be the most widely read of all the Canadian magazines, and we could not think of our Library without *Popular Mechanics*.

The following facts we have noted will show why we believe the current numbers of the magazines to be of real value to the library: (1) They bring the people to the Library. (2) They encourage them to read books. I am frequently asked for books reviewed or mentioned in a magazine. (3) They keep people posted on current events. (4) They economize for the people. Many people could not afford to buy magazines for themselves. (5) They find the best magazines at the Library, many of which could not be purchased at the local book stalls.

Our experience is that periodicals are invaluable in reference work. The majority of the magazines we have bound, and all that are indexed are found useful for reference.

We have in the Library over 1,200 bound magazines. Many of these are in circulation, and judging by the demand for them they are appreciated.

We do not sell any magazines. Some of the librarians present may dispose of theirs in that way. We consider it advisable to keep all indexed magazines, or Canadian, or the *Illustrated London News*, or the *Graphic*, or *Punch*.

The Sunday opening of the Guelph Library has been most satisfactory. The average attendance this year to date has been seventy each Sunday. As the stack room is practically closed on this day, this splendid attendance indicates on the part of our readers a growing interest in magazines and newspapers.

#### Canadian.

Canadian Courier.  
Canadian Engineer.  
Canadian Forestry.  
Canadian Home Journal.  
Canadian Horticulturist.  
Canadian Machinery.  
Canadian Magazine.  
Canadian Poultry Review.  
MacLean's.  
World Wide.

#### British.

Athenæum.  
Blackwood's.  
Bookman.  
British Weekly.  
Boy's Own.  
Chambers Journal.  
Chums.  
Daily Sketch.  
Graphic.  
Hibbert Journal.  
Illustrated London News.

My Magazine.  
Pearson's.  
Public Opinion.  
Punch.  
Queen.  
Review of Reviews.  
Round Table.  
Scout.  
Strand.  
Sunday at Home.  
Windsor.  
Woman at Home.  
Woman's Magazine.

#### American.

Atlantic.  
Century.  
Cosmopolitan.  
Craftsman.  
Current History.  
Electrical News.  
Everybody's.  
Goodhousekeeping.  
Harper's.

Keramic Studio.  
Ladies' Home Journal.  
Little Folks.  
Manual Training.  
Missionary Review.  
Modern Priscilla.  
Munsey's.  
National Geographic.  
N.Y. Times Book Review.  
Nineteenth Century.  
Outing.  
Outlook.  
Popular Mechanics.  
Popular Science.  
Reader's Guide.  
Review of Reviews.  
Rod and Gun.  
St. Nicholas.  
Saturday Evening Post.  
Scientific American.  
Scribner's.  
Technical World.  
Wide World.  
Youth's Companion.



THE PRESIDENT: I will now call upon Miss Middlemiss to read a paper upon the same subject. Miss Middlemiss comes from the Public Library at Brantford, Ontario.

Miss Middlemiss then read paper. (Applause.)

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## THE PLACE AND USE OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS IN OUR LIBRARIES IN TOWNS.

MISS E. H. MIDDLEMISS, PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRANTFORD.

It must be true, for the man in the moon said so, and he had watched it all from his lofty height in the starry sky. Of course, it was rude of him to stare in the window, but, as he said, "If people do not wish me to look in their houses they should pull down the blinds." So I'll tell you the tale as he told it to me.

"'Twas almost midnight and I had seen nothing exciting on my journey from Honolulu to Brantford except a train wreck, two or three highway robberies, and half a dozen runaways, and I was so bored I hardly knew what to do. I was just wishing something really thrilling would happen when I came to the Public Library and, being naturally inquisitive, I looked in to find out what attracted so many there every day.

"All was still, only the solemn tick-tock, tick-tock of the clock on the mantle could be heard. On the racks the papers were neatly hung, giving a very weird aspect to the room, and, feeling rather nervous, I was just going to leave, thinking anyone was very foolish to frequent that dull place, when the deep silence was broken by the chimes pealing out twelve. As the last stroke sounded I was amazed to see the fire-place send out a lurid gleam and the newspapers with a gentle rustle of their stiff skirts jump down from their racks and seat themselves around the cheerful blaze. In a more dignified and leisurely manner the magazines stepped from their places and joined the circle, which by this time had become very noisy, for all the papers were talking at once, with the *Globe* as usual in the lead.

"They grouped themselves together according to their subject matter (the subject matter of their publications), the woman's magazines together in one corner talking of fashion, the servant problem and 'how to become thin'; the popular story magazines were seated near the reviews, while next to them were the technical journals.

"Popular Mr. *Punch*, old but every young, was unanimously voted chairman of the meeting. 'Order, order!' he cried; 'one would almost think this were a woman's club meeting with so much noise, and this is a solemn occasion, for we have met together to-night to decide of what value we are in a Public Library. Each of us has a powerful influence over our readers. Is it for good or evil? I see you are arranged in groups, so I will ask each group to appoint one of their number to be spokesman for the rest, to tell us what their particular use is in this Reading Room, and in so doing they must remember to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. As newspapers are in a class by themselves, I will call on their representative to speak first.

"Tall and stately Manchester *Guardian* took his place, and in the most approved and dignified English manner addressed his colleagues.

“ ‘Mr. Chairman, friends, through the courtesy of the other dailies, I have been chosen to lay our case before you, for they say (and I repeat it in all modesty) that I have the honour of being the best paper published in Old England.

“ ‘Ever since the days when the town crier went up and down the streets calling out the latest news that had come from the outside world, there has been a great demand on the part of the people to know more and more about what is happening in all parts of the universe. Newspapers are the answer to this popular need, and as the Public Library offers free access to all, everyone has the opportunity of satisfying this demand.

“ ‘Of course, there are different types of papers, just as there are different types of men, and what one would enjoy another would not take the trouble to look at. There is the very pompous man, who reads only the editorial column, who solemnly declares, “Newspapers are the greatest moulders of public opinion.” Then a woman wearing a very worried expression, “Oh, newspapers! I cannot waste my time on them; they are regular scandal mongers.” But fifty per cent. of our readers are represented in the man who reads almost exclusively the news column and is of the opinion that “Newspapers are the recorders of current events,” and probably his description suits us the best.

“ ‘Most people take one or two dailies for themselves, but a comparison of half a dozen sheets, in order to obtain different accounts of the same event is usually possible only in a Library. And since the war no place has been more popular than its Reading Rooms, where the student can read the news of battle from the viewpoint of every country, neutral or belligerent.

“ ‘In reference work, newspapers are indispensable. Books often, through typographical errors, have wrong dates, while newspapers, on account of their strictly contemporary character, cannot lead one astray, so are of great value to historians and biographers.

“ ‘I feel perhaps I have not done justice to my confreres, for Messrs. *Montreal Star*, *Manitoba Free Press*, or one of our friends from across the border, *New York Times* or *Chicago Tribune*, with their vast store of knowledge (without which a Library would be bankrupt indeed), would have dealt with the subject in a more capable manner. Neither must I forget our cousins, the weekly editions, such as the *Saturday Evening Post*, which is the best nickel’s worth of reading published, and *Saturday Night*, our own Canadian weekly, has brought forth the remark from an English Tommy in the trenches, “Oh, I say, old chap, you surely do not publish this paper in Canada!” These I have mentioned I am glad to see in our group, as well as the chief ones from the capitals of the provinces which are daily sought after, as are my brothers, *Edinburgh Scotsman* and *Dublin Freeman*.

“ ‘With such a company as these, I am sure that the Reading Room of this Library will always have a great many patrons. For the readers, I am sure, will agree with me that “Newspapers have had more to do with the true making of this country than the horde of ancestors to whom credit is given,” and are doing much toward lifting the world out of darkness, prejudice and ignorance into the light of knowledge and power.’

“ ‘When he had resumed his seat, the chairman said, ‘The speaker has well told the use and place of newspapers in our towns. Before hearing him I was well aware they were invaluable to put under carpets to deaden sounds, but now I know they have a better and greater mission. Every day people with an hour of leisure wander into the Library, and having no definite idea as to what is best to read, they pick up a magazine, look it through, then glance at the newspapers, and when



their time is up depart with nothing gained. Would it not be wise to devise some means whereby the Reading Room might become a great educational centre? I would suggest having one of the attendants glance through the papers on their arrival and place a typewritten notice up calling attention to leading topics thus: "See the article on 'Canada's attitude toward conscription' in to-day's *Globe*." In this way the Library, through its newspapers, could become of unequalled value as a dissiminator of knowledge.

"I will now call on Mistress *Good Housekeeping*, who represents Woman's Magazines. I have no hesitation in saying that without exception she is the best periodical written for the fairer sex. She is invaluable to the cook with her excellent menus, to the dietitian with her splendid recipes, to the society girl with her fashion page, and to the tired-out housekeeper with her interesting stories."

"With such an introduction, Mademoiselle *Vogue*, dressed in the latest and most extreme style, moved aside to let Mistress *Good Housekeeping* take the floor. In a low, sweet voice she began. 'Those periodicals which offer the greatest interest to women are those pre-eminently devoted to fashion and the home—and I hope I am not too selfish when I claim to belong to this class—*House Beautiful* and the *Garden Magazine*. With so much talk on gardening as a means of thrift, the latter, with its splendid suggestions for utilizing every available piece of ground as a vegetable garden, has gained almost as much popularity as the *Delineator* and *Ladies' Home Journal*, without which a Library could never get along, with their wonderful helps on dressmaking, home improvements and recipes. Owing no doubt to its page on "Aids to Beauty" the latter is a great favourite with the men who sheepishly pick it up and read until someone they know comes in, when they hurriedly snatch up a newspaper and bury themselves in it. Why they should be thus ashamed of reading such good literature I cannot understand, especially as they have begged and begged the editor to give them a page all for themselves, and at last he has consented to do so. So I maintain that the women's magazines hold a large place in a Library, and a Reading Room without them would be as uninteresting and monotonous as a world devoid of women.'

"The demure speaker sat down amid a storm of applause, and *Punch* said:

"I agree most heartily with Mistress *Good Housekeeping*, and I for one would soon want to leave a place so dull as a world composed entirely of men. The next speaker represents a class that we all secretly admire, but hesitate to say it, the *Popular Story Magazines*."

"Genial Mr. *Scribner*, wearing a bright smile, came forward. 'I speak for a class of periodicals purely recreational, and it is we who lead a great many to condemn our whole family. Due to this fact I am a great supporter of that saying, "There is so much bad in the best of us, and so much good in the worst of us, it hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us." But, in spite of man's condemnation, we lead in popularity; we are asked for the most, read the most, and slandered the most. Some of the best literary gems of all time are found on the pages of such pseudo-literary magazines as *Munsey*, *Century*, *McClure's*. Of course, there are a few black sheep in our family, but they only serve to show how excellent the rest of us are in comparison. I hope in these few sentences that I have proved to you that we have a place in the Library that it would be difficult for any one else to fill, for our aim is to draw, in our interesting stories, the cares and worries to which mankind is heir.'

"I was very much interested in Mr. *Scribner's* talk,' said the chairman, 'for I have heard so many uncomplimentary remarks about his family that I was

wondering if he could really prove his worth, and I am now convinced he can. Our next speaker, Mr. *World's Work*, will now speak for his family, The Reviews.'

"Stooped with learning, Mr. *World's Work* stepped slowly to the front, and in his usual concise manner began: 'The Reviews are the periodicals most extensively read, for we cover the events of the whole world, concentrating particularly on the momentous questions of the day. Business men find in us a friend in need, for we offer not only sources of information on the progress of nations, but assistance in furnishing them with material for practical use in their public life which could not be found in books.

"Such periodicals as *Fortnightly*, *Century*, and *Contemporary Review* contain everything of interest found in papers or journals, while *Hibberts* finds a true supporter in the ministers, to whom it is of great value. The *Atlantic Monthly* is another brother, and is the real literary magazine of America, so should be found in every Library, as should also the *Missionary Review of the World*, which, as I overheard a missionary say, is not only interesting to those concerned in missions, but it gives such a splendid idea of the inside working of so many different countries that it should be greatly enjoyed by all. Who would not desire to learn of the "Newspaper Evangelism in Egypt" or "The Women Students of the World" as described in the latest number?

"But although we are of assistance to authors, business and professional men, few of them can, on account of our high price, afford to subscribe for us, and as the Library exists to take the periodicals the people cannot afford to, I hope I have persuaded you that the Reviews have a place and use in the Library—a place of literary value second to none.'

"That reminds me of a story I published a while ago,' remarked the chairman, when Mr. *World's Work* had taken his seat. 'An Irishman was talking to an American on the merits of their respective countries. The arguments were growing heated when the American said: "If you were not an Irishman what would you be?" "Sure, and Oid he ashamed of myself" answered Pat and that's the way I feel—ashamed that I'm not a member of the Reviews family. We will now hear what Mr. *Scientific American* has to say for himself.'

"With the mechanism of his frame creaking from the weight of knowledge he carried the speaker stepped forward to uphold the cause of the technical journals.

"As my friends tell me I am the best of my kind, I hope I will be able to prove to you that my kind is the best of all. Our use is to develop the scientific and mechanical side of our readers' minds, so we appeal to those especially interested along this line. Who knows but some young boy may gain such inspiration from our pages that he will go and invent a weapon that will really "kill" the Kaiser?

"Our family is so large that I can only mention one or two (I know it's not "quite the thing" to boast of one's relatives), but my older brother, *Scientific American Supplement*, is really an excellent paper and contains almost everything a person would want to know. Then there is a younger brother, *Popular Mechanics*, who is eagerly watched for each month by boys and amateurs, who can easily work out the directions given for new inventions. So we hold also a place no other periodical can possibly attempt to fill.'

"Now I'm sorry I'm not a member of the technical family,' said the chairman. 'But I must lose no more time in vain regrets, so I will call on the last speaker of the evening, Mr. *National Geographic*, one of the very best magazines a Library can subscribe for, bringing by word and picture to our notice almost every country in the world.'



"Delightfully refreshing in the browns he wears so much, Mr. *National Geographic* took the floor. 'I speak for the magazines dealing with special topics, but as I saw our worthy chairman pulling out his watch as I came forward, I am afraid I will only have time to mention one or two.

"First, the Illustrated Weeklies, such as *London Illustrated* and *The Sphere*, which are of great educational value, for "seeing is believing," and who could ever imagine a British "tank" if they had not seen a picture of one in these weeklies? They are both eagerly sought for by both old and young alike, and they certainly have a place of no mean merit in our Library. Then there is our good friend *Punch*, who so ably has acted in the capacity of chairman during this meeting. To read *Punch* every week is to receive a liberal education, so it should be found in every Library."

"We have listened with the greatest interest to the speakers to-night," said the chairman, "and I am confident that a Public Library could not get along without the best of those represented here.

"In order to have the best, the selection of material for a Reading Room should not be the idea of one, but of a number, for we must remember that a Reading Room should be above everything else a place to increase the intelligence of the people. Therefore magazines that harm should never be allowed in a Library, and as for the so-called Funny Paper I doubt if it would even be of value in lighting a fire. So every year the magazines that are not serving a good purpose should be weeded out and new ones of sound value introduced.

"Each community has to cater to a different class of people, so the Library officials should know exactly what type of periodicals are of most value to their particular need, and purchase accordingly, never by any chance sacrificing the student's literature to the popular.

"The Reading Room of a Public Library, with its luxuries of reading, representing thoughts and desires beyond our every-day needs, is a death blow to narrow-mindedness. A regular reader, with so much of the world's best thought at his disposal, must view all matters in a very broad way. So a great responsibility rests upon us that we give nothing but the very best, in spite of the fact that the public to a great extent clamour for the mediocre. If the poor and mediocre are not given them their ideals will be lifted, and a great opportunity for good service awaits the man who can devise ways and means of reaching the vast multitudes which clearly yet are untouched by the rising flood of good periodical literature."

"As he finished speaking the clock struck the half hour, and at that moment a cloud rudely stepped in front of me. When it had passed I looked again, but the fire had gone out, the magazines were again on the tables and on their racks the ghostly papers hung, while silence brooded over all. I waited for awhile, but that dreadful silence continued, so I delayed no longer, but journeyed on to fresh scenes and new adventures."

**THE PRESIDENT:** It was very interesting to listen to the names of the various magazines as they were enumerated. I stand by the *Saturday Evening Post*, but we do not place it in our Libraries because it is within the reach of everyone. The *National Geographic Magazine* is a pearl of great price, and if there is a library in the whole Province of Ontario not taking this magazine it certainly should do so.

**MR. CARSON:** What do you think of the local papers being on file for daily use?

**THE PRESIDENT:** That is another question. We keep local papers downstairs for the purpose of affording people the opportunity of perusing the advertisements,

but no other library in this city has the newspapers, because libraries are places for people to drop in and learn something.

I have much pleasure in calling upon Miss Annie Jackson, of the Children's Department of the Public Library of this City, to read a paper on: "What periodicals are suitable for Children's Departments of our Public Libraries?"

MISS JACKSON: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: It really does seem to me unfair that in both these conferences of learned magazines, the Children's have not been given a single place. In one of the conferences they were asleep and in the other they were not present at all.

Miss Jackson then read paper. (Applause.)

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## PERIODICALS USEFUL IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOMS.

BY MISS ANNIE M. JACKSON, CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN, TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In discussing the question of what periodicals are useful in our children's rooms, it might be well at the outset to define just what is a good juvenile magazine. In most cases, we can apply the same test to the magazine as to the book: Has it literary value and does it tend to develop a taste for good and wholesome reading? Does it deal with boy and girl interests? Does it interest them in any way in present day people and events? Is it written in such a way that boys and girls can understand it? If a periodical measures up to these requirements, it is worth being considered in making a selection of magazines for use in our children's rooms.

Unfortunately, there are a number of periodicals published for boys and girls which fall far short of this standard. They range from the thoroughly bad to the mediocre type. Therefore, in the first place, I shall deal with the subject from the negative standpoint: what ought not to be included in our selection of magazines for the children's rooms in the library.

At the very foot of the ladder comes "Chums." If there be any children's librarian, who, not familiar with the character of this undesirable, gives it house-room in her library, I most earnestly entreat her to become better acquainted, and I am sure "Chums" will encounter the same fate that it met with here: expulsion from the children's room "for always and always and always." The paper and print of the magazine is atrocious, with subject matter to correspond. It includes nothing but fiction and that of the most wildly sensational nature. If we are anxious to develop in our boys a desire for the yellow dime-novel type of literature, let us by all means give them "Chums."

Another class of undesirable magazines is that of the indifferent type which has neither demerits nor merits. These, of course, are not worthy of the condemnation accorded to "Chums," but being of no particular use to us, they must necessarily be ranked with the useless ones, and as such discarded. "The American Boy" is one of these. Not only is it of mediocre standard, but is strongly American in sentiment. Do not take this for narrow-minded disapproval of things American; but we are anxious to make of our boys and girls Canadians, and where the reading matter produced across the border is so rabidly American as to be a hindrance in the work of making good Canadian citizens, we ought not to make use of it in our libraries. Another magazine of this same mediocre type is "The Scout." This is published by "The Boy Scouts of America" organization for the purpose of supplying reading for boy scouts along the lines of the movement. Such



a paper might be made of very considerable value, but thus far at least, "The Scout" has fallen somewhat short of its aims and can scarcely be considered among our more approved magazines. Quite different from "The American Boy" and "The Scout," but of no greater value in the children's room is "The Girl's Own," now published under the joint title of "The Woman's Magazine and the Girl's Own." Fiction, fashions and articles on matters supposedly of interest to woman make up the magazine. The stories are almost without exception, love stories, with pictures to correspond, just the kind of thing to develop a sickly sentimentality in the growing girl. "The Love Affairs of Pixie," "The Melting of Mollie," "The Jilt," are suggestive titles. Here are the headings of a few of the articles: "Helping the girl who is fond of dress," "The etiquette of dining out," "When a woman is at her best," "When we considered the income problem" and so on. For women of a certain type this may be all very well; the magazine does contain sometimes a grain or so of sense, though it is hard to find in the stacks and stacks of straw. We do not want it in the children's room.

Magazines for little children form still another class of periodicals quite useless to us. There are a number of these published, "Little Folks," "The Infants' Magazine," "The Children's Friend" and others. For the most part, they contain rhymes, pictures and simple stories, all of which are adequately supplied by the ordinary picture books. A new magazine which we tried out in one of our children's rooms, is "Something To Do." It is recommended by the editor for such mischief-makers, as a young "troglodyte" named Lawrence

Who shut the old cat in the range;  
She was nearly baked to death.  
He soused the kitten in the milk  
Until she lost her breath.  
He stuck the hearth-broom in the fire,  
And when 'twas all aflame,  
Processioned through the parlor  
Shouting Woodrow Wilson's name.

For turning the misdirected energies of such untamed spirits (and we meet them daily in the library) into proper channels, the magazine supplies something to look at, something to look for, something to colour, to copy, to weave, to cut and paste, to write about, grow, illustrate, draw, read, learn by heart, something for fun and something for Sunday. Surely the range is broad enough, but somehow the charm does not work, not in the library at any rate. It is merely something more to turn the pages of; so we have come to the conclusion that it is of no more use in the children's room than other magazines for little children.

There are, then, magazines of various kinds published for children which have no place in our children's rooms. In the first place, there are those after the style of "Chums," which are positively harmful; then there are those of the mediocre type, such as "The American Boy," "The Scout" and "The Girl's Own," which are not absolutely bad but are of no special use to us; and lastly, there are those which we do not need because we have books that better take their place. So much, then for the negative side of the question.

Fortunately there are published a number of periodicals that are of real value to us in our work with boys and girls. The first I would mention is "The Youth's Companion," somewhat more popular in the days of our fathers and mothers than with us. A great part of this paper is devoted to fiction, which is, as a rule, fairly good, some of our quite approved juvenile writers contributing to it; and the stories are for both boys and girls. In addition to the stories a few articles appear in each number, but the range of subject is very limited; one page is given over to current

events and about the same space is devoted to little moral talks with boys and girls. In fact the one objection to the *Youth's Companion* is, that lately it seems to be degenerating somewhat into the Sunday School paper type. But taking it all round, it is wholesome and quite worth being considered in making a selection of periodicals for the children's room.

Different in style but of more value to us, I think, is "The Boy's Own." This paper was popular with boys a generation back and still continues to be so. Lately about thirty *Boy's Own Annuals* came through to one of our children's rooms. About a quarter to four they were put on the shelves and within half an hour those shelves were empty. Since then I do not think that more than two have ever been on the shelf at one time, and I have known a boy stay in the room from three o'clock till six in the hope of getting one before the day was out. It is popular because it practically covers all a boy's interests in its range of subjects. The stories are of the kind which we are continually asked for, stories of school-life and adventure; and though some of the latter are of the blood-and-thunder type, compared with specimens from "Chums" they are mild. It must be admitted that a good deal of the fiction in "The Boy's Own" is of very indifferent merit; the names of Gordon Stables and Manville Fenn on its list of contributing authors would ensure that. But on the other hand, some of our best English writers of boys' stories, such as Brereton, Jeans, Finnemore, Gilson and others have written for it. Just at present a serial story on the war, by Gilson, is appearing. Out-of-door sports, indoor amusements, pets and hobbies, practical science, the army and navy, the war and many other topics of interest come in for their share of treatment. "The Boy's Own" has the additional merit that it is thoroughly British. On the whole it is the best general magazine for boys that we can put into the library.

Another publication which comes to us from England is "My Magazine." This monthly is like no other children's periodical published. It formerly went by the name of "My Children's Magazine" and is really an extension of "The Book of Knowledge." Its aim seems to be that of embarking the child upon a course of encyclopædic reading, so much information does it contain. But the articles are in very readable form, so that the magazine may be used both for reference work and for general reading purposes. To the range of subject there seems no limit; history, biography, nature study, science, hygiene, travel, art, literature, poetry, all being included. Here for example are a few subjects picked out hap-hazard from some back numbers: The great wall of China, the Atlantic cable, prehistoric times in England, German militarism, wireless telegraphy, art treasures of Italy, Russia and the war, the story of Hans Christian Anderson, and so on. In each issue there is a section answering puzzling little everyday questions such as the children often ask; for instance, why the French flag has unequal stripes, why guns are fired for royalty, why the date of Easter changes, how a safety valve works and so on. Though the articles are written for general reading and consequently the information is not set down in quite as concise and definite form as might be, we have found the whole magazine so useful for reference work that we consider it quite worth our while to index each issue, keeping the back numbers for further use and binding them every six months. For all purposes "My Magazine" is one of the most valuable of all children's periodicals.

A new magazine which first came out about a year ago is "Wohelo." This is the official publication of the Girl's Camp Fire organization. It deals entirely with out-of-door life, and in a community where the girls are interested in woodcraft and camp life it is very useful. But of course it is quite valueless in a library where the girls coming to the children's room have no such interests. For instance we



first tried it out in our College St. children's room where the majority of the children are from "the ward," to whom real out-of-door life is almost wholly denied, and as a result, "Wohelo" came down from the magazine rack about twice a month. But at the Dovercourt branch where the girls are of the breezy Canadian type who have a chance to go camping and hiking, the magazine is being used with much greater success.

In addition to the magazines I have mentioned there are a few others, not juvenile in the strict sense of the term, but which are none the less of very great value to us in our work. Two of these are "Popular Mechanics" and "The Scientific American." To have one or other of these in the children's room, for the older boys, seems to me absolutely essential. We aim to supply the library needs of boys up to the age of fourteen or fifteen, and if we are going to hold these boys and keep them from looking upon the children's room as beneath their manly dignity, we must cater to their interests. To give them access to such magazines as "Popular Mechanics" and "The Scientific American" is a tremendous help in keeping our big boy readers. Naturally both of these magazines are required by the adult department and to get second copies for the children's room may seem, in the small library, an extravagance. It is quite practical, however, as the latest issue arrives for the adult department, to have the previous number passed on to the children's room. Another paper we use in the same way is the "Illustrated London News"; the "Graphic" or the "Sphere" of course serve equally well.

But whatever magazines we may or may not have, no children's room can be quite complete without its monthly copy of "St. Nicholas." This has been the most successful of all juvenile magazines from the time of its first publication in 1873. To study the development of the "St. Nicholas," is practically to study the growth of children's literature. I spent a very interesting hour or two, some time ago, looking over some of the early volumes of "St. Nicholas." I found that almost all of our really good writers for children of the past fifty years have contributed to it. In the very first volume there appears a short story by Thomas Bailey Aldrich, a couple of Louisa Alcott's early stories, and in serial form "Being a Boy," by Charles Dudley Warner. The names of Boyesen, Mary Mapes Dodge, Susan Coolidge, Eva March Tappan, George MacDonald, Hezekiah Butterworth of "zig-zag" fame, Whittier, Palmer Cox and many others, appear, some of them again and again. In 1877 Howard Pyle began to contribute stories with his own illustrations; in 1879 Frances Hodgson Burnett started to write for "St. Nicholas," and in the same volume is a story written by the well-known author of "Tom Brown" and illustrated by Kate Greenaway. A great many of our most valued books, especially those for girls, have first appeared as serials in "St. Nicholas," for example, Alcott's "Eight Cousins" and "Jack and Jill," Eggleston's "Hoosier Schoolboy," and Dodge's "Donald and Dorothy." I was quite interested to find that Tennyson's two dainty little poems for children, "Minnie and Winnie" and "The City Child," had been contributions to "St. Nicholas," as had also Longfellow's "Haroun-al-Raschid."

Fortunately "St. Nicholas" has maintained its high standard of excellence down to the present. Some of the very best of our more recent juvenile books have also run through "St. Nicholas" in serial form. Augusta Seaman's two wholesome stories "The Sapphire Signet" and "The Boarded-up House," Burnett's "Lost Prince," Abe Farwell Brown's "The Lucky Stone," Russell Bond's "With the Men Who Do Things," and Paine's "Boy's Life of Mark Twain" are just a few examples. In addition to the stories there are always articles on science, out-of-door sports, biography and things of present-day interest to both boys and girls.

wondering if he could really prove his worth, and I am now convinced he can. Our next speaker, Mr. *World's Work*, will now speak for his family, The Reviews.'

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"That reminds me of a story I published a while ago,' remarked the chairman, when Mr. *World's Work* had taken his seat. 'An Irishman was talking to an American on the merits of their respective countries. The arguments were growing heated when the American said: "If you were not an Irishman what would you be?" "Sure, and O'd he ashamed of myself" answered Pat and that's the way I feel—ashamed that I'm not a member of the Reviews family. We will now hear what Mr. *Scientific American* has to say for himself'

"With the mechanism of his frame creaking from the weight of knowledge he carried the speaker stenned forward to unhold the cause of the technical journals.

"As my friends tell me I am, the best of my kind, I hope I will be able to prove to you that my kind is the best of all. Our use is to develop the scientific and mechanical side of our readers' minds, so we appeal to those especially interested along this line. Who knows but some young boy may gain such inspiration from our pages that he will go and invent a weapon that will really "kill" the Kaiser?

"Our family is so large that I can only mention one or two (I know it's not "quite the thing" to boast of one's relatives), but my older brother, *Scientific American Supplement*, is really an excellent paper and contains almost everything a person would want to know. Then there is a younger brother, *Popular Mechanics*, who is eagerly watched for each month by boys and amateurs, who can easily work out the directions given for new inventions. So we hold also a place no other periodical can possibly attempt to fill.'

"Now I'm sorry I'm not a member of the technical family,' said the chairman. 'But I must lose no more time in vain regrets, so I will call on the last speaker of the evening, Mr. *National Geographic*, one of the very best magazines a Library can subscribe for, bringing by word and picture to our notice almost every country in the world.'



"Delightfully refreshing in the browns he wears so much, Mr. *National Geographic* took the floor. 'I speak for the magazines dealing with special topics, but as I saw our worthy chairman pulling out his watch as I came forward, I am afraid I will only have time to mention one or two.

"First, the Illustrated Weeklies, such as *London Illustrated* and *The Sphere*, which are of great educational value, for "seeing is believing," and who could ever imagine a British "tank" if they had not seen a picture of one in these weeklies? They are both eagerly sought for by both old and young alike, and they certainly have a place of no mean merit in our Library. Then there is our good friend *Punch*, who so ably has acted in the capacity of chairman during this meeting. To read *Punch* every week is to receive a liberal education, so it should be found in every Library."

"We have listened with the greatest interest to the speakers to-night," said the chairman, "and I am confident that a Public Library could not get along without the best of those represented here.

"In order to have the best, the selection of material for a Reading Room should not be the idea of one, but of a number, for we must remember that a Reading Room should be above everything else a place to increase the intelligence of the people. Therefore magazines that harm should never be allowed in a Library, and as for the so-called Funny Paper I doubt if it would even be of value in lighting a fire. So every year the magazines that are not serving a good purpose should be weeded out and new ones of sound value introduced.

"Each community has to cater to a different class of people, so the Library officials should know exactly what type of periodicals are of most value to their particular need, and purchase accordingly, never by any chance sacrificing the student's literature to the popular.

"The Reading Room of a Public Library, with its luxuries of reading, representing thoughts and desires beyond our every-day needs, is a death blow to narrow-mindedness. A regular reader, with so much of the world's best thought at his disposal, must view all matters in a very broad way. So a great responsibility rests upon us that we give nothing but the very best, in spite of the fact that the public to a great extent clamour for the mediocre. If the poor and mediocre are not given them their ideals will be lifted, and a great opportunity for good service awaits the man who can devise ways and means of reaching the vast multitudes which clearly yet are untouched by the rising flood of good periodical literature."

"As he finished speaking the clock struck the half hour, and at that moment a cloud rudely stepped in front of me. When it had passed I looked again, but the fire had gone out, the magazines were again on the tables and on their racks the ghostly papers hung, while silence brooded over all. I waited for awhile, but that dreadful silence continued, so I delayed no longer, but journeyed on to fresh scenes and new adventures."

**THE PRESIDENT:** It was very interesting to listen to the names of the various magazines as they were enumerated. I stand by the *Saturday Evening Post*, but we do not place it in our Libraries because it is within the reach of everyone. The *National Geographic Magazine* is a pearl of great price, and if there is a library in the whole Province of Ontario not taking this magazine it certainly should do so.

**MR. CARSON:** What do you think of the local papers being on file for daily use?

**THE PRESIDENT:** That is another question. We keep local papers downstairs for the purpose of affording people the opportunity of perusing the advertisements,

but no other library in this city has the newspapers, because libraries are places for people to drop in and learn something.

I have much pleasure in calling upon Miss Annie Jackson, of the Children's Department of the Public Library of this City, to read a paper on: "What periodicals are suitable for Children's Departments of our Public Libraries?"

MISS JACKSON: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: It really does seem to me unfair that in both these conferences of learned magazines, the Children's have not been given a single place. In one of the conferences they were asleep and in the other they were not present at all.

Miss Jackson then read paper. (Applause.)

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## PERIODICALS USEFUL IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOMS.

BY MISS ANNIE M. JACKSON, CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN, TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In discussing the question of what periodicals are useful in our children's rooms, it might be well at the outset to define just what is a good juvenile magazine. In most cases, we can apply the same test to the magazine as to the book: Has it literary value and does it tend to develop a taste for good and wholesome reading? Does it deal with boy and girl interests? Does it interest them in any way in present day people and events? Is it written in such a way that boys and girls can understand it? If a periodical measures up to these requirements, it is worth being considered in making a selection of magazines for use in our children's rooms.

Unfortunately, there are a number of periodicals published for boys and girls which fall far short of this standard. They range from the thoroughly bad to the mediocre type. Therefore, in the first place, I shall deal with the subject from the negative standpoint: what ought not to be included in our selection of magazines for the children's rooms in the library.

At the very foot of the ladder comes "Chums." If there be any children's librarian, who, not familiar with the character of this undesirable, gives it house-room in her library, I most earnestly entreat her to become better acquainted, and I am sure "Chums" will encounter the same fate that it met with here: expulsion from the children's room "for always and always and always." The paper and print of the magazine is atrocious, with subject matter to correspond. It includes nothing but fiction and that of the most wildly sensational nature. If we are anxious to develop in our boys a desire for the yellow dime-novel type of literature, let us by all means give them "Chums."

Another class of undesirable magazines is that of the indifferent type which has neither demerits nor merits. These, of course, are not worthy of the condemnation accorded to "Chums," but being of no particular use to us, they must necessarily be ranked with the useless ones, and as such discarded. "The American Boy" is one of these. Not only is it of mediocre standard, but is strongly American in sentiment. Do not take this for narrow-minded disapproval of things American; but we are anxious to make of our boys and girls Canadians, and where the reading matter produced across the border is so rabidly American as to be a hindrance in the work of making good Canadian citizens, we ought not to make use of it in our libraries. Another magazine of this same mediocre type is "The Scout." This is published by "The Boy Scouts of America" organization for the purpose of supplying reading for boy scouts along the lines of the movement. Such



a paper might be made of very considerable value, but thus far at least, "The Scout" has fallen somewhat short of its aims and can scarcely be considered among our more approved magazines. Quite different from "The American Boy" and "The Scout," but of no greater value in the children's room is "The Girl's Own," now published under the joint title of "The Woman's Magazine and the Girl's Own." Fiction, fashions and articles on matters supposedly of interest to woman make up the magazine. The stories are almost without exception, love stories, with pictures to correspond, just the kind of thing to develop a sickly sentimentality in the growing girl. "The Love Affairs of Pixie," "The Melting of Mollie," "The Jilt," are suggestive titles. Here are the headings of a few of the articles: "Helping the girl who is fond of dress," "The etiquette of dining out," "When a woman is at her best," "When we considered the income problem" and so on. For women of a certain type this may be all very well; the magazine does contain sometimes a grain or so of sense, though it is hard to find in the stacks and stacks of straw. We do not want it in the children's room.

Magazines for little children form still another class of periodicals quite useless to us. There are a number of these published, "Little Folks," "The Infants' Magazine," "The Children's Friend" and others. For the most part, they contain rhymes, pictures and simple stories, all of which are adequately supplied by the ordinary picture books. A new magazine which we tried out in one of our children's rooms, is "Something To Do." It is recommended by the editor for such mischief-makers, as a young "troglodyte" named Lawrence

Who shut the old cat in the range;  
She was nearly baked to death.  
He soused the kitten in the milk  
Until she lost her breath.  
He stuck the hearth-broom in the fire,  
And when 'twas all aflame,  
Processioned through the parlor  
Shouting Woodrow Wilson's name.

For turning the misdirected energies of such untamed spirits (and we meet them daily in the library) into proper channels, the magazine supplies something to look at, something to look for, something to colour, to copy, to weave, to cut and paste, to write about, grow, illustrate, draw, read, learn by heart, something for fun and something for Sunday. Surely the range is broad enough, but somehow the charm does not work, not in the library at any rate. It is merely something more to turn the pages of; so we have come to the conclusion that it is of no more use in the children's room than other magazines for little children.

There are, then, magazines of various kinds published for children which have no place in our children's rooms. In the first place, there are those after the style of "Chums," which are positively harmful; then there are those of the mediocre type, such as "The American Boy," "The Scout" and "The Girl's Own," which are not absolutely bad but are of no special use to us; and lastly, there are those which we do not need because we have books that better take their place. So much, then for the negative side of the question.

Fortunately there are published a number of periodicals that are of real value to us in our work with boys and girls. The first I would mention is "The Youth's Companion," somewhat more popular in the days of our fathers and mothers than with us. A great part of this paper is devoted to fiction, which is, as a rule, fairly good, some of our quite approved juvenile writers contributing to it; and the stories are for both boys and girls. In addition to the stories a few articles appear in each number, but the range of subject is very limited; one page is given over to current

events and about the same space is devoted to little moral talks with boys and girls. In fact the one objection to the *Youth's Companion* is, that lately it seems to be degenerating somewhat into the Sunday School paper type. But taking it all round, it is wholesome and quite worth being considered in making a selection of periodicals for the children's room.

Different in style but of more value to us, I think, is "The Boy's Own." This paper was popular with boys a generation back and still continues to be so. Lately about thirty *Boy's Own Annuals* came through to one of our children's rooms. About a quarter to four they were put on the shelves and within half an hour those shelves were empty. Since then I do not think that more than two have ever been on the shelf at one time, and I have known a boy stay in the room from three o'clock till six in the hope of getting one before the day was out. It is popular because it practically covers all a boy's interests in its range of subjects. The stories are of the kind which we are continually asked for, stories of school-life and adventure; and though some of the latter are of the blood-and-thunder type, compared with specimens from "Chums" they are mild. It must be admitted that a good deal of the fiction in "The Boy's Own" is of very indifferent merit; the names of Gordon Stables and Manville Fenn on its list of contributing authors would ensure that. But on the other hand, some of our best English writers of boys' stories, such as Brereton, Jeans, Finnemore, Gilson and others have written for it. Just at present a serial story on the war, by Gilson, is appearing. Out-of-door sports, indoor amusements, pets and hobbies, practical science, the army and navy, the war and many other topics of interest come in for their share of treatment. "The Boy's Own" has the additional merit that it is thoroughly British. On the whole it is the best general magazine for boys that we can put into the library.

Another publication which comes to us from England is "My Magazine." This monthly is like no other children's periodical published. It formerly went by the name of "My Children's Magazine" and is really an extension of "The Book of Knowledge." Its aim seems to be that of embarking the child upon a course of encyclopædic reading, so much information does it contain. But the articles are in very readable form, so that the magazine may be used both for reference work and for general reading purposes. To the range of subject there seems no limit; history, biography, nature study, science, hygiene, travel, art, literature, poetry, all being included. Here for example are a few subjects picked out hap-hazard from some back numbers: The great wall of China, the Atlantic cable, prehistoric times in England, German militarism, wireless telegraphy, art treasures of Italy, Russia and the war, the story of Hans Christian Anderson, and so on. In each issue there is a section answering puzzling little everyday questions such as the children often ask; for instance, why the French flag has unequal stripes, why guns are fired for royalty, why the date of Easter changes, how a safety valve works and so on. Though the articles are written for general reading and consequently the information is not set down in quite as concise and definite form as might be, we have found the whole magazine so useful for reference work that we consider it quite worth our while to index each issue, keeping the back numbers for further use and binding them every six months. For all purposes "My Magazine" is one of the most valuable of all children's periodicals.

A new magazine which first came out about a year ago is "Wohelo." This is the official publication of the Girl's Camp Fire organization. It deals entirely with out-of-door life, and in a community where the girls are interested in woodcraft and camp life it is very useful. But of course it is quite valueless in a library where the girls coming to the children's room have no such interests. For instance we



first tried it out in our College St. children's room where the majority of the children are from "the ward," to whom real out-of-door life is almost wholly denied, and as a result, "Wohelo" came down from the magazine rack about twice a month. But at the Dovercourt branch where the girls are of the breezy Canadian type who have a chance to go camping and hiking, the magazine is being used with much greater success.

In addition to the magazines I have mentioned there are a few others, not juvenile in the strict sense of the term, but which are none the less of very great value to us in our work. Two of these are "Popular Mechanics" and "The Scientific American." To have one or other of these in the children's room, for the older boys, seems to me absolutely essential. We aim to supply the library needs of boys up to the age of fourteen or fifteen, and if we are going to hold these boys and keep them from looking upon the children's room as beneath their manly dignity, we must cater to their interests. To give them access to such magazines as "Popular Mechanics" and "The Scientific American" is a tremendous help in keeping our big boy readers. Naturally both of these magazines are required by the adult department and to get second copies for the children's room may seem, in the small library, an extravagance. It is quite practical, however, as the latest issue arrives for the adult department, to have the previous number passed on to the children's room. Another paper we use in the same way is the "Illustrated London News"; the "Graphic" or the "Sphere" of course serve equally well.

But whatever magazines we may or may not have, no children's room can be quite complete without its monthly copy of "St. Nicholas." This has been the most successful of all juvenile magazines from the time of its first publication in 1873. To study the development of the "St. Nicholas," is practically to study the growth of children's literature. I spent a very interesting hour or two, some time ago, looking over some of the early volumes of "St. Nicholas." I found that almost all of our really good writers for children of the past fifty years have contributed to it. In the very first volume there appears a short story by Thomas Bailey Aldrich, a couple of Louisa Alcott's early stories, and in serial form "Being a Boy," by Charles Dudley Warner. The names of Boyesen, Mary Mapes Dodge, Susan Coolidge, Eva March Tappan, George MacDonald, Hezekiah Butterworth of "zig-zag" fame, Whittier, Palmer Cox and many others, appear, some of them again and again. In 1877 Howard Pyle began to contribute stories with his own illustrations; in 1879 Frances Hodgson Burnett started to write for "St. Nicholas," and in the same volume is a story written by the well-known author of "Tom Brown" and illustrated by Kate Greenaway. A great many of our most valued books, especially those for girls, have first appeared as serials in "St. Nicholas," for example, Alcott's "Eight Cousins" and "Jack and Jill," Eggleston's "Hoosier Schoolboy," and Dodge's "Donald and Dorothy." I was quite interested to find that Tennyson's two dainty little poems for children, "Minnie and Winnie" and "The City Child," had been contributions to "St. Nicholas," as had also Longfellow's "Haroun-al-Raschid."

Fortunately "St. Nicholas" has maintained its high standard of excellence down to the present. Some of the very best of our more recent juvenile books have also run through "St. Nicholas" in serial form. Augusta Seaman's two wholesome stories "The Sapphire Signet" and "The Boarded-up House," Burnett's "Lost Prince," Abe Farwell Brown's "The Lucky Stone," Russell Bond's "With the Men Who Do Things," and Paine's "Boy's Life of Mark Twain" are just a few examples. In addition to the stories there are always articles on science, out-of-door sports, biography and things of present-day interest to both boys and girls.

The illustrations are of the best, such artists as Arthur Rackham and Fanny Cory frequently doing work for the magazine. Perhaps I might take a moment to run through the contents of the March number. There were a number of good short stories both for boys and for girls; three serials, "Understood Betsy," by Dorothy Canfield; "The Girl Next Door," by Augusta Seaman, and "Under Boy Scout Colours," by Joseph Ames. A number of articles on various topics are also included: "The deep sea doctor, Wilfrid Grenfell"; "In Doctor Grenfell's town," "Work of a children's garden club," "Applied science and mechanics for boys," and in addition, the regular sections devoted to current events, nature and science, books and reading, and the pages for little children. Whatever may be said of other juvenile periodicals, one must admit that the "St. Nicholas" fully measures up to what a children's magazine should be.

Now in making a selection of magazines for a children's room, while it is quite necessary to exclude all the undesirables, it does not follow that all the approved ones should be included. Many things must be considered: the size of the community to be served, the interests of the children who use the room, the amount allowed for spending on magazines, and so on. One or two is often quite sufficient; under scarcely any conditions would it be of benefit to have all the good ones. But whether the selection includes a dozen or one, let the list always be headed by the "St. Nicholas."

THE PRESIDENT: I am sure we are all very appreciative of the papers which have been read to us. I may also mention that the ladies and gentlemen who have contributed to the programme have kept absolutely to the time limit, and that the loss of time is due to the general public failing to attend at the scheduled hour of 9 a.m. The papers read have been eminently practical, and I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of everyone present when I describe the programme as an excellent one. (Hear, hear.)

There is no time for discussion because, generally, time for discussion is wasted. The real time for that is at home. We have tried to give you in one day a view of what the whole Province of Ontario is thinking about in connection with Library work. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen: Resolution 12 says:

"That at the conclusion of the consideration of this report a vote be taken by the Association on the proposal that the next annual meeting be held in the City of Hamilton."

There are two ways of disposing of this motion, either by deciding it now or referring it to the Executive Committee.

Motion referred to the Executive Committee.

It is now my very pleasant duty and privilege to present to you the new President of the Ontario Library Association, Miss Black, of Fort William. (Loud and continued applause.)

Those of you who had the privilege of listening to her splendid address yesterday require no further introduction, and I am sure you will remember her paper for years to come. Miss Black enters into the occupancy of the Presidential Chair at the psychological moment in the history of the Province when we mere men are gradually being displaced by those who are determined to conduct our affairs on a higher plane than ever before. (Laughter.)

I have very much pleasure in welcoming Miss Black.

MISS BLACK: Mr. Locke, ladies and gentlemen: may I simply say "friends"—I suppose you do know how very deeply touched I am by the honour you have



conferred upon me this morning, an honour that I feel is altogether too great for me. I fear that the mantle of Elijah will not rest very easily on the shoulders of Elisha. (Laughter.)

MR. LOCKE: I haven't gone to heaven yet. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I recognize also that the selection is not an entirely personal one. I realize, in the first place as the first woman President of this Association, that the Association is making a very great innovation—I would not like to say a step in advance—but a wonderful innovation that I think could only have been introduced in this great democratic country of Ontario. (Applause.)

Here we have obtained the suffrage without working or even asking for it. We did not have to go out and create strife and disorder in order to gain this great privilege. The men, with a generosity that is characteristic of the inhabitants of this Province, have realized that there is something more to be given to us than merely a pleasant time. They realized that we had not yet entered into the fullness of life until we were granted the privilege of sharing life's burdens (in a political sense), and now they have asked me to act as their comrade in carrying the burdens of the Ontario Library Association, and in doing so, to represent the women of this Association; "oh, I like to be liked by the men." (Laughter.)

MR. LOCKE: You are.

A VOICE: Too much generalizing. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I really would prefer to be very much liked by the women, and I only hope that the selection is as popular among the women as I know it is among the men. (Applause.)

There is another reason, probably, why I have been chosen. I represent the most western Library in this Association, the library of Fort William, and I am very, very glad indeed that you have conferred the honour of your gift of the President's Chair upon "New Ontario," because there is a possibility, you know, that New Ontario will not be a part of Old Ontario much longer. Should that happen, I am sufficiently sentimental to feel that New Ontario may be going in the right direction in going out to the West for its Capital. I am very, very proud indeed to be Old Ontario's representative from New Ontario.

Again I desire to thank you individually and collectively for the great honour you have conferred upon me personally, and also for the honour which has been conferred upon the women of this Association.

I will ask you to rise, stand at attention, and, in closing, sing our national anthem.

The audience rose and sang "God Save the King."

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